

British Empire in Australasia

I. Island Life in the Strange South Seas

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Author of "South Sea Yarns," "The Fijians," etc.

The diverse peoples who inhabit these far romantic isles of the South Seas that enjoy British protection and comprise the oceanic portion of the vast British Empire in Australasia, are here described and illustrated. Separate articles on the Australian Commonwealth, New Zealand, and Tasmania will be found under their own headings

NATIVES of the Pacific Islands and New Guinea belong to three races — the Polynesian, the Melanesian, and the Micronesian. If a line were drawn north and south about the 170th degree of longitude W. the Polynesian race would be found throughout the widely scattered islands on the east of the line and the Melanesians on the west, though among the Melanesian Islands there are colonies of Polynesians, formed in historical times by castaways driven westward by the strong south-east trade wind.

How long the islands have been inhabited is as yet undetermined, but it seems certain that both Polynesians and Melanesians came from the westward in the region of the Malay Archipelago and that the Melanesians were established in their islands many centuries before the Polynesians passed through them to the islands beyond.

What privations and hardships they endured in their eventful voyages can never now be known. From time to time native canoes have been encountered

many hundred miles from land without food or water, full of men, women, and children doomed to die of thirst. Throughout Melanesia there was a well-established custom of slaughtering all strangers and castaways, and even eating them, because they landed "with salt water in their eyes." Traditions still exist among the Polynesians showing that they started on their travels because they were vanquished in a civil war in their own land and were doomed to destruction.

The origin of the Micronesians is even more obscure. They are known from Spanish voyagers to have been in their present habitat for at least three centuries, and they have preserved to the present day their very characteristic



A PERFECT DREAM OF A HAT

Feathers of the cockatoo, bird of paradise, and white crane, built up on a cane framework, form this headdress worn by a premier danseur of Ifuifu, Papua

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ON THE THRESHOLD OF MANHOOD

Ceremonial masks attain the acme of the grotesque in New Guinea. This astonishing confection is worn by boys in the Gulf Division when being initiated into manhood

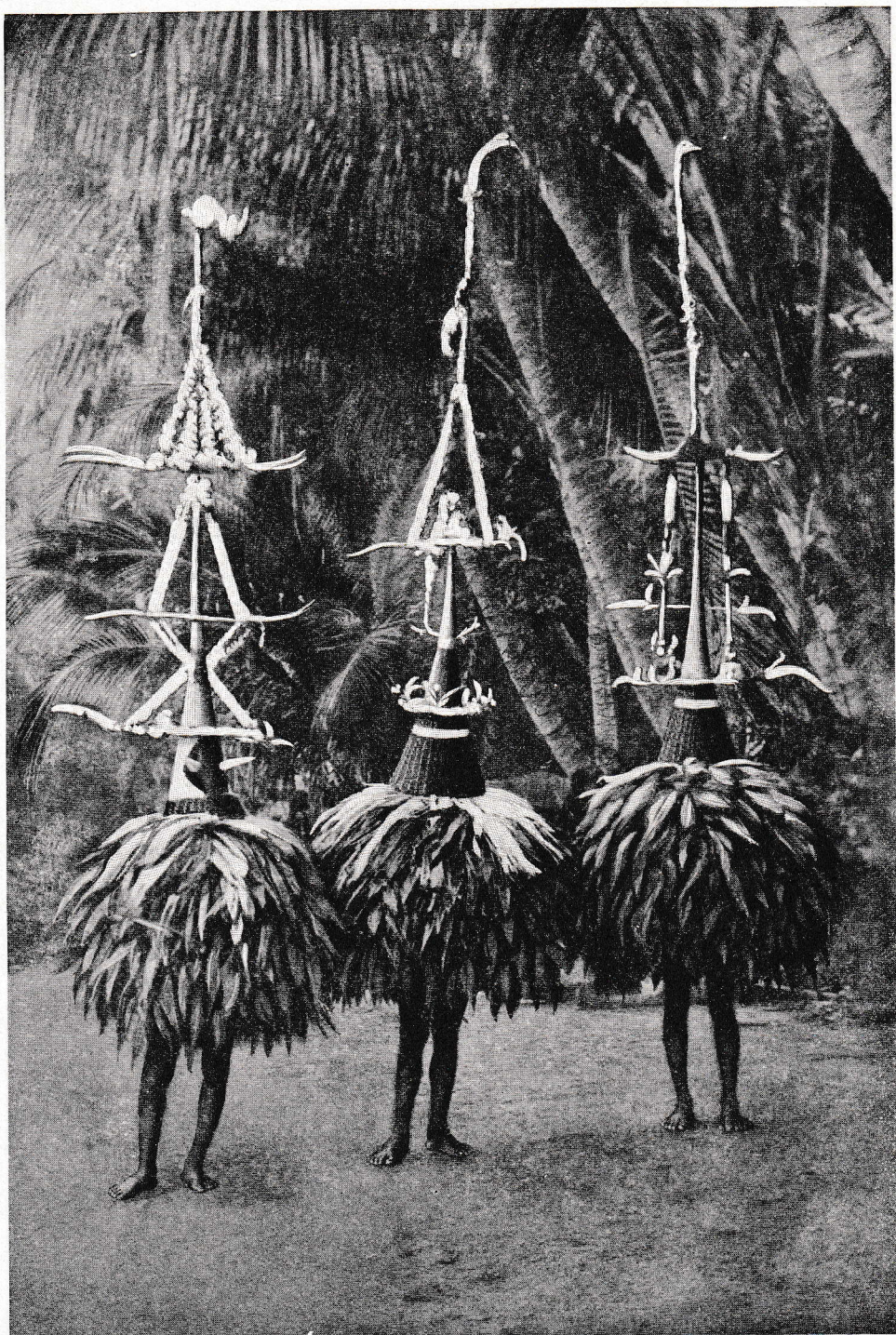
Photo, American Field Museum, Chicago

Malay or Mongolian appearance. Of all the Pacific races they are alone in making and drinking fermented liquor. Their islands are grossly over-populated considering the poorness of the soil and the lack of water, yet until quite recently they were alone in their rapid increase of population.

Broadly speaking, the Polynesians may be described as tall and handsome, light brown in colour, with wavy hair, which, naturally black, is dyed red with lime and cut short, until it stands erect like a barrister's wig. They are polished in manners, energetic in war, and dignified in deportment, but naturally indolent and prone to make a great show of civilization which they do not possess.

The Melanesian varies in colour. In some islands he is nearly black, while in others there is every gradation of colour, from black to reddish-brown, even in neighbouring villages. His hair is frizzy, he is shorter and stouter in build than the Polynesian, and far more energetic and industrious. The Polynesians have powerful chiefs with miniature Courts, the Melanesians are Republican by instinct. With the exception of the Maoris, the Polynesian can lay little claim to artistic skill. The Melanesian has a passion for decorating even his household utensils by carving and colouring. The Polynesian is far less conservative than the Melanesian. You will find him strutting about in the most unbecoming European garments, while the Melanesian, who has seen far more of Europeans on the sugar plantations, stoutly refuses to adopt trousers unless he is employed in a European vessel.

Midway between these two races stands the Fijian. Fiji is the meeting ground, because it was the most easterly point reached by the Melanesian population, and the natural target for Polynesian raids and conquests. The Fijian is of fine physique, muscular, athletic, and energetic. His colour varies like that of the Melanesian, and he knows how to make himself imposing by dyeing his hair with lime and dressing it until it forms an enormous golden aureole about his head. He is



FULLY FLEDGED DUKDUKS IN LODGE DRESS

Members of the Dukduk secret society, which has branches throughout Papua, cut quaint figures in their regalia. High masks, like fantastic extinguishers, made of wickerwork and decorated with leaves and cloth, envelop their bodies. Thus attired, they whirl along the paths, hopping and whooping, and then return to their sacred lodge to assist at the initiation of neophytes

Photo, George Brown, "Melanesians and Polynesians," Macmillan & Co., Ltd.

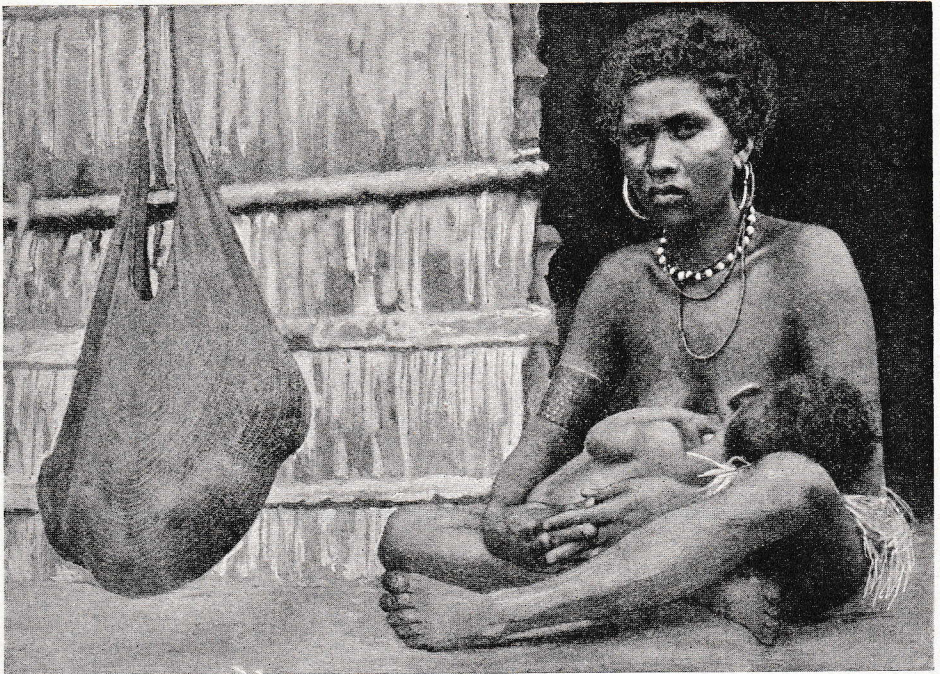
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remarkably conservative, for though he has been under the British Government since 1874, he still lives in the thatched hut which contented his fathers, and fashions a canoe out of a tree-trunk. Nor has he shown any desire to learn English or to adopt European food, except to a limited extent.

At the same time, he has taken very kindly to Christianity, and is only now emerging from the first enthusiasm of conversion. There is a strong histrionic vein in the native character, and the mysticism of the Roman Catholics and the revival meetings of the Wesleyans minister to this instinct. There are moments when there is a veritable Pentecost of religious excitement among the converts. With the adoption of Christianity most of the old heathen rites and superstitions have vanished, but secretly, no doubt, there remains a strong belief in the malevolent influence of unquiet spirits which have to be propitiated.

The native population of the British half of Papua (New Guinea) has been definitely shown to be of Melanesian origin: with a Papuan admixture growing stronger with every mile from the coast. The customs are almost purely Melanesian, for half the year the south-east trade wind blows from the Solomon Islands, and there can be little doubt that in the course of centuries Melanesian colonies were established on the coast, which drove back the native Papuans into the interior, where their descendants are now to be found.

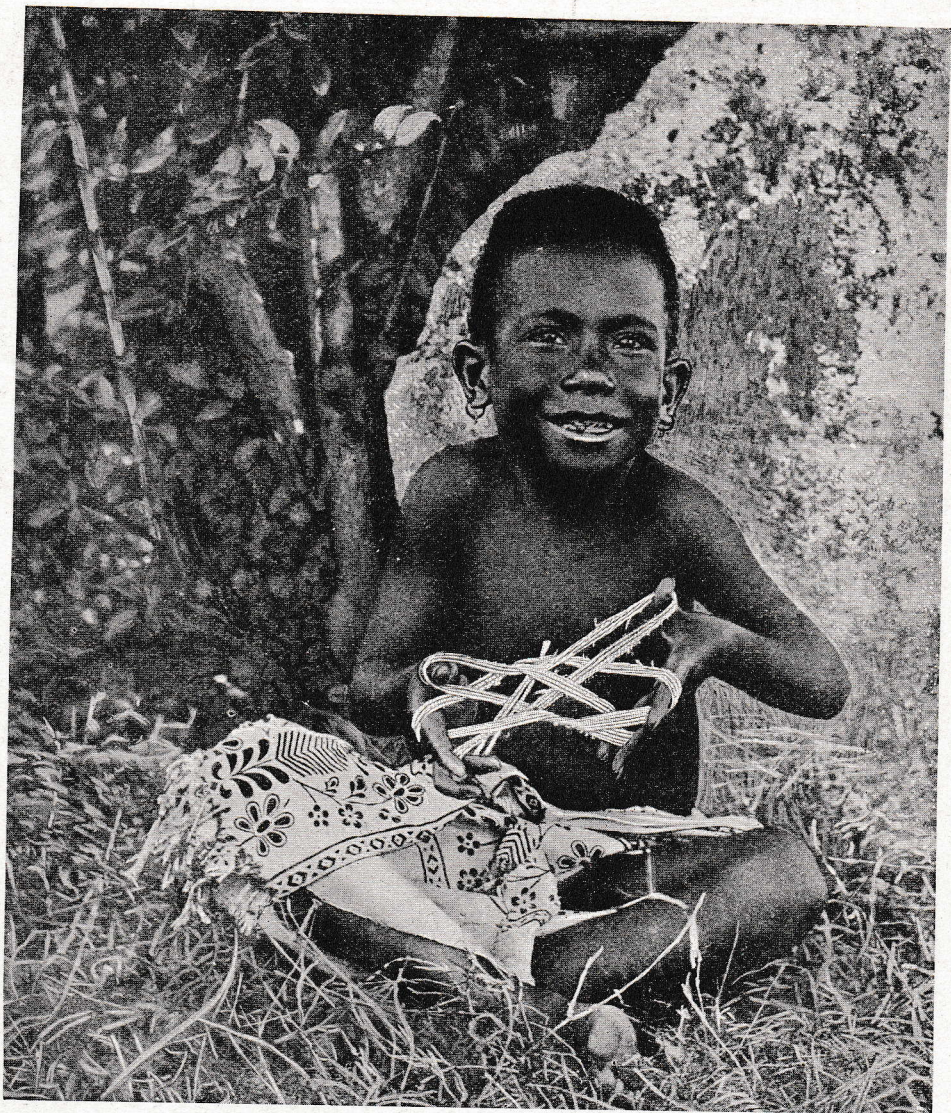
To pass from Fiji to Papua is to step from the twentieth century into the Stone Age. Actually within the last twenty years the Papuans were still using stone tools in preference to iron. There was an extraordinary political parcellation. Each village was at war with its neighbour, and trade was carried on only by means of common markets, to which potential enemies



HANG UP YOUR BABY IN A STRONG STRING BAG

Papuan women in the Port Moresby neighbourhood have a remarkably simple and effective method of keeping their infants out of harm's way. Having fed her latest baby and hushed it to sleep, the mother puts it in a string bag, which she hangs from a rafter, while she attends to her penultimate arrival. The bag serves as rocking-cradle, mosquito curtain, and safe, all in one, and does not appear to induce curvature of the spine in the children

Photo, American Field Museum, Chicago



WORLD-WIDE PASTIME OF SIMPLE FOLK SAVAGE AND CIVILIZED

Kiwai children, living at the entrance to the Fly River, are very keen on cat's-cradle, and have a great number of varieties of the game, some of them very intricate. Anthropological students of folk-lore, investigating the games of uncivilized peoples, have found that this string game is one of the most widely-diffused amusements in the world, occurring in Australia and in Africa

Photo, W. N. Beaver, "Unexplored New Guinea"

might repair. The cultivation was carried on by the women under the protection of armed men, and no man in his senses thought of leaving the confines of his village unarmed. It is true that the battles were generally bloodless. It was enough to dress up and paint the face to look terrible and to make a strong indication of an attempt to charge, for the enemy to run away. If he stood his ground, you ran away

yourself. Consequently, the victims whose skulls were to be found decorating the eaves of the chiefs' houses were generally those of stragglers or women or children who were cut off unawares. Among some of the tribes a man might not wear the coveted decoration of the upper mandible of the hornbill in his hair until he had killed a man, and in one case a boy of eleven, the son of a chief, who was wearing this



YOUNG LADIES OF RIGO, DRESSED IN ALL THEIR BEST

They have donned their best skirts of fine fibre trimmed with strips of white cloth in which to pose before the camera. Both wear neatly woven fibre armlets, those of the girl on the left being embellished with tassels, or rosettes, of leaf. She also wears tortoiseshell bracelets, cowrie bangles, and a necklace of red and white beads symmetrically strung

Photo, American Field Museum, Chicago



WELL GROOMED DELEGATES TO A PAPUAN CONFERENCE

They have come to make a ceremonial call upon a neighbouring village, an occasion requiring full dress. Both men wear shell frontlets, plumes in their woolly bonnets, broad beaded belts, garters and tails (without coats) of striped cloth, shell anklets, and leaf tassels attached to their armlets. The delegate on the left also wears bracelets of tridacna shell

Photo, American Field Museum, Chicago



RINGLETTED BABIRI BOWMAN FROM THE FAR WEST OF PAPUA

Babiri is the general name for the natives in the extreme west of British New Guinea. They wear their hair in ringlets rolled up with mud or grease, and lengthened with fibre to hang over the shoulders. Apart from a shell in front the men go naked save for fibre cross-belts and necklaces of wallaby teeth

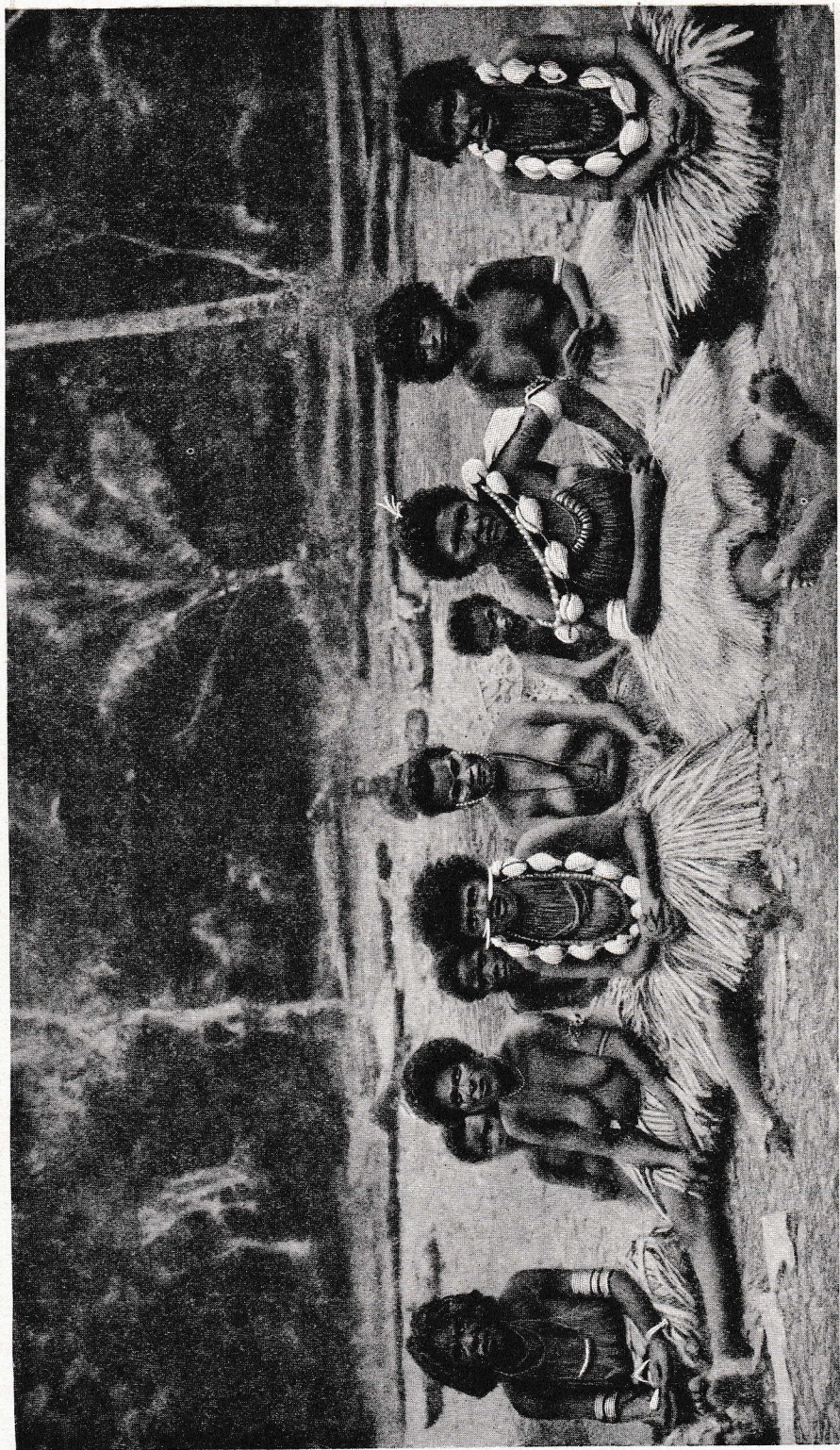
Photo, W. N. Beaver, "Unexplored New Guinea"



WOMEN OF OROKAIVA ENJOYING A PULL AT A LONG PIPE

Their pipe is a length of bamboo open at the mouth end. Near the other, closed, end a small wooden tube is inserted containing the tobacco rolled into a ball. The smoker draws down the smoke until the bamboo is full, and then closes the orifice with the hand, removes the tube, and inhales the tobacco smoke through the hole. The pipe is passed from hand to hand till the smoke is exhausted

Photo, W. N. Beaver, "Unexplored New Guinea"



TRAPPINGS OF WOE: WHITE SHELLS AND BRASSARDS FOR MOURNING WEAR

The etiquette of conventional mourning is as rigid in New Guinea as it was not long since in Old England, and perhaps not more unreasonable. At Basilaki, in the south-east of the island, the women wear shoulder-belts of ovulum ovum, white shells like huge cowries, and also wear white plaited armbands. It is a common custom for them to blacken their faces and bodies, and in some parts of the country they lop a joint off the finger.

Photo, George Brown, "Melanesians and Polynesians," Macmillan & Co., Ltd.



FISH-FACED WEED-ROBED CELEBRANTS OF GHOULISH RITES

At specific dances and at initiation ceremonies, costumes are worn which represent various legendary and mythical figures, the precise significance of which has not been ascertained by ethnologists. These horrible fish-like masks, framed in white feathers, are used by the tribes along the Gulf of Papua

Photo, W. N. Beaver, "Unexplored New Guinea"

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decoration, had earned it by clubbing the life out of a wounded prisoner while his father was holding him.

Since the administration of Papua was handed over to the Australian Commonwealth with the additional territory taken from the Germans in the north-eastern half of the island continent, efforts have been made to colonise the Possession. The process must necessarily be very gradual. The country has scarcely emerged from the prospector state. A large part of the mountainous interior has not yet been explored. Even now species new to the zoologist and the botanist are being

discovered, and from the finds of gold that have been made it seems quite probable that great mineral wealth may be discovered at any time; but the European settler has many difficulties to contend with. Malaria is rife, the climate, especially in the period of the north-western monsoon, is unhealthy for Europeans, and the means of transport by land are almost non-existent.

The efforts of early administrators, such as Sir William Macgregor, had necessarily to be the pacification and exploration of the country. It was unsafe for Europeans to go from one tribe to another because neighbouring



"SHOCK TROOPS" THAT STRIKE TERROR INTO THE HEART

Warriors in the west of New Guinea are most ferocious figures when in war paint. They look like devils incarnate as they advance yelling to the attack in their headdresses arched with white cockatoo feathers and hung with tasselled cords, veritable breastplates made up of fibre cross-belts sewn with disk-like shell sections, and necklaces of tusks and repulsive nose ornaments

Photo, Universal Jewel Film



CAPTAIN OF A COMPANY OF CANNIBAL FIGHTING MEN

Black cassowary feathers form his headdress, proclaiming him to be a personage in his tribe. Similar feathers compose his ruff, the ends of which are held down on his chest by cross-belts of shell and rattan. His ear-rings are of cuscus tails stripped of their hair, and his armlets of tridacna shell

Photo, Universal Jewel Film



GRIEF FOR THE DEAD SHOWN BY HEMPEN HALTERS

Bundles of small cords suspended round the neck are worn by the women in some parts of New Guinea as a sign of mourning. Widows are strictly taboo, and there are specified periods during which they are secluded from the light, from being without a covering, from walking about to pay visits, and from bathing. Widows are also prohibited from wearing good dresses

Photo, Thomas McMahon



ARISTOCRACY UNADORNED BY ADVENTITIOUS TRAPPINGS

This is the chief of Dobu, in south-east New Guinea, with his wife. Even the grotesque nose ornaments—quills projecting four inches on each side of the septum of the nose—detract little from their austere dignity. Fibre armlets and shell garters complete his attire, while hers consists only of a skirt of pandanus leaf. His water-bottle is a calabash

Photo, George Brown, "Melanesians and Polynesians," Macmillan & Co., Ltd.

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MEN'S BONNETS IN NEW GUINEA

North coast Papuans wear a headdress of black woolly material sewn on to a frontlet of minute beads, fibre breast ornaments, and armlets of boars' tusks and tridacna shell

Photo, American Field Museum, Chicago

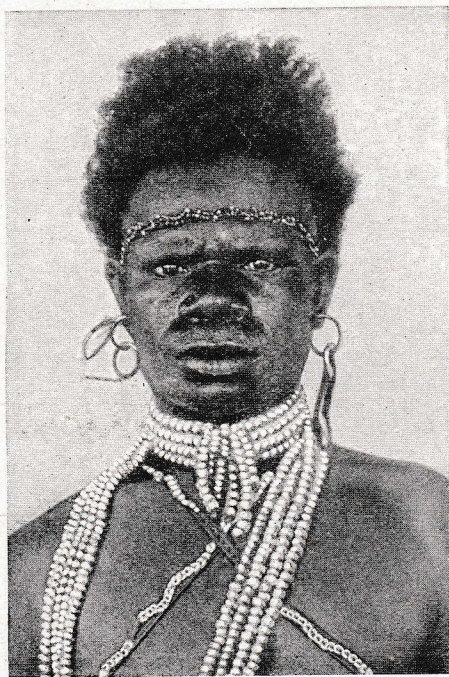
tribes were nearly always at war. Homicide was regarded by the native code as a mere matter of payment. Indeed, in one case, when a ship-of-war was sent to arrest the native murderers of a European, the murderer himself came on board and tendered the usual compensation of a pig, two spears, and a war club, and was astonished and indignant when his legal tender was rejected and he was put under arrest.

It was Sir William Macgregor who began the practice of converting murderers into policemen. The New Guinea murderer was generally the strongest and most enterprising man of his village. He was sentenced to penal servitude and sent to the gaol in Port Moresby. After a few months of labour on the road, if his conduct was good, his sentence was remitted, he was sworn in as a constable, clothed in uniform,

and sent back to his village to keep order. So proud was he of his new authority, and particularly of his uniform, that he proceeded to rule his village with a rod of iron, and in very few cases did he betray the confidence that had been placed in him. In a very few years it became possible for Europeans to travel safely from East Cape to the mouth of the Fly River.

The extraordinary conservatism of the Melanesian need not be enlarged upon, but it is worth noting that the Spanish discoverer, Catoira, has left us an elaborate description of the Solomon islander in 1567, and that in no particular, either in language or customs or behaviour, has he changed in the past three and a half centuries.

While the natives prefer their own customs to ours, they are by no means unteachable. In Tonga they have a college of their own with only one European teacher, where they learn history, mathematics, and



JEWELLED DANDY OF PAPUA

His trinkets include ropes of shells on his neck and breast, tortoiseshell ear-rings, and a frontal circlet of small white shells split and sewn on finely-plaited rattan

Photo, American Field Museum, Chicago



MANHOOD IN THE SOLOMON ISLES: A MALAYTA CHIEF

His frontal disk of wafer-thin tortoiseshell, intricately carved and set on tridacna shell, is distinctive of the Solomon Islander. Sharks, porpoises, and dogs have all supplied teeth for his necklace

shorthand. They take very readily to European drill. They are beginning to breed and ride horses, and in a few cases the natives keep cows and sell milk. In Fiji the government offices are served by native clerks. There is a medical school for native practitioners, and numbers of efficient smiths, carpenters, and fitters are turned out from the government technical school. In the management of European vessels they excel, and one may find them cooking, waiting at table, and minding the European baby. But let them once return to their village and the whole of this skin of civilization is sloughed off. A few of them live in weather-board bungalows built on the European style, but they live in them on principle rather than by inclination, and they are always happier in the native house of tree-trunks and grass thatch, which has been compared in outward appearance to a disembowelled haystack.

The economic progress of the natives is barred at present by a species of Communism. In Fiji this is called "kerekere," and it means that no native, unless he is a chief, dares to accumulate property, because his fellow-villagers descend upon him and ask for it. The kerekere carries a reciprocal obligation to return other goods at a later period, which are also asked for, but a native who refused such a request would be pointed at as a niggard, and would not dare to hold up his head. There is, besides, an institution known as "lala," under which a chief has a right to call on any member of the tribe to do work in the common interest.



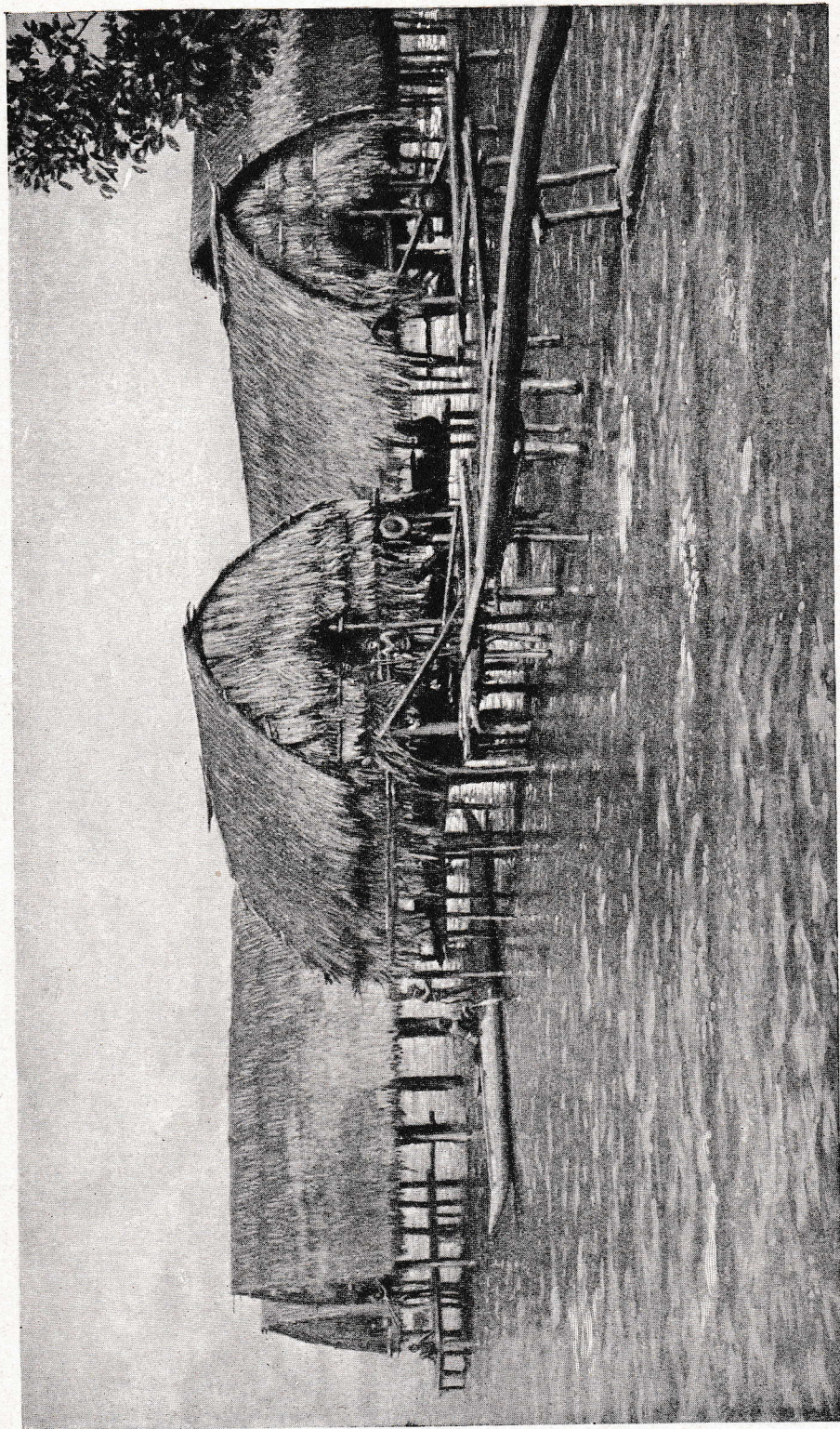
PIPING A SIMPLE MELODY

Musical instruments among the Melanesians are few, and, apart from the drums, show little ingenuity of construction. This flute, in use on St. Matthias Island, is a length of bamboo with only three holes besides the orifice

Photo, American Field Museum, Chicago

It is, in fact, the equivalent of local rates, but in practice, now that the chiefs have larger ideas, the lala is much abused in the form of collecting money for the purchase of a European vessel which the chief will use as his private yacht.

The dividing line between private property and property held in common is very difficult to draw. Land not under cultivation is the property of the community, and if a man wishes to fence off and cultivate a plot, he applies to the chief, who, learning that it is not claimed by anyone else, assigns it to the applicant. As long as he cultivates it, it is his private property, and should



IDEAL QUARTERS FOR BATHING PARTIES: A MARINE VILLAGE IN THE ADMIRALTY ISLANDS

Many Melanesian coast villages are built actually in the water to guard against surprise attacks by hostile tribes in the interior. Piles are driven down into the hard bottom, and on these the houses are constructed. Domed thatch roofs come down almost to the floor, which is a foot or two above the water, and windows are non-existent. A narrow plank bridge without handrails gives access to the shore

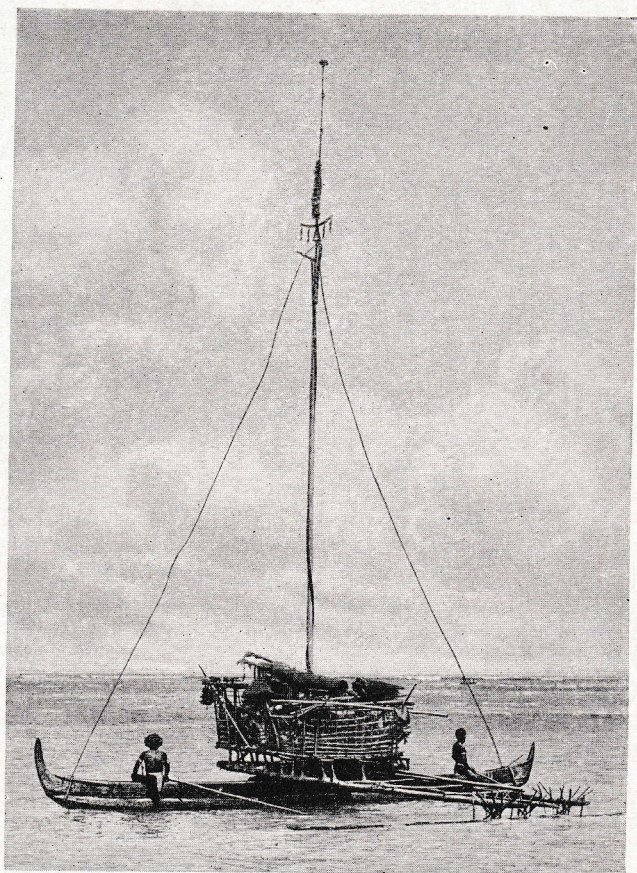
Photo, American Field Museum, Chicago

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he plant fruit-trees upon it, and the land afterwards be assigned to someone else, the fruit-trees remain his. Other communal property consists in meeting-houses, fish fences, communal vessels and canoes, roads and paths; but movable property belongs to the individual until it is begged from him by someone else.

As might be expected of a people who draw their sustenance entirely from the land and sea reefs, the Pacific islander is consumed by earth hunger. In the early days of Fiji, when the chiefs sold large tracts of land to Europeans, there was no end to the number of claimants who came forward demanding compensation or return of the land. After these early sales the government refused to allow the alienation of any of the native land except upon a lease, and in Tonga the native government had come to the same decision many years before the group became a British Protectorate.

The general policy of the British Government has been to govern the natives through their chiefs. This has led, perhaps, to an attitude among the civil servants of treating the natives like museum specimens in a glass case. They are not allowed, except for a very good reason, to leave their native place in any number; there is a stringent law against supplying them with liquor; they may not engage for service with Europeans except under strict supervision; even the rent paid by Europeans for their land reaches the natives through the government. In the British Solomon Islands the same policy is pursued, but here so small is the



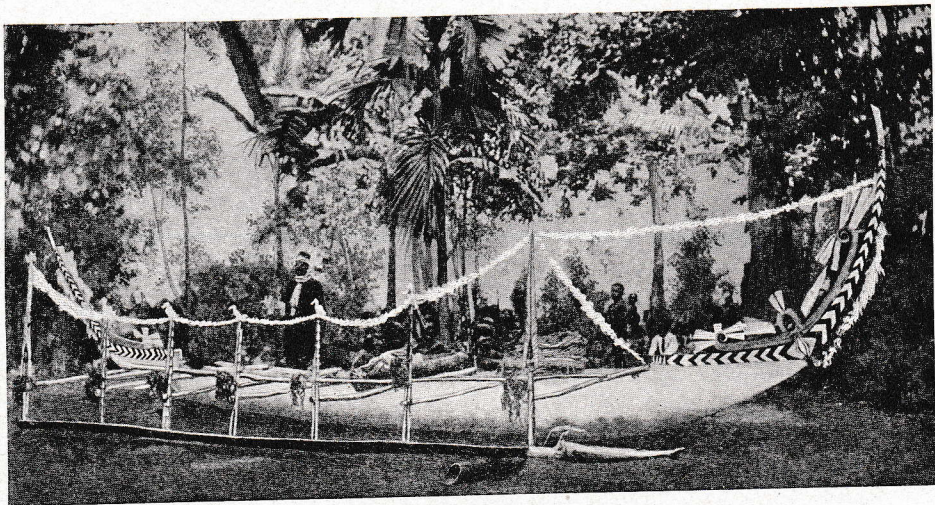
MELANESIAN SAILING CANOE BECALMED

It is rigged with a large leg-of-mutton sail made of mat, the ropes being of hibiscus bark. In a strong breeze one of the crew stands on the windward outrigger, stepping inboard as the wind slackens

Photo, American Field Museum, Chicago

European population that the chiefs are left with greater powers of self-government. But the whole system of government is in the melting-pot, and the tendency is towards some kind of representative institutions in all the islands, even though the people are not ready for them.

Their marriage customs, though not peculiar to themselves, are remarkable. In the New Hebrides the whole population is divided into two marriage classes. We will call them O and X. An O man must marry an X woman, and all the children of both sexes belong to the X class. The brother of the X woman must marry an O woman, and all her children are O. Speaking generally, it may be said that to a Melanesian man all



BEAUTIFUL VESSEL FREIGHTED WITH MYSTIC SIGNIFICANCE

In Duke of York Island a sacred canoe figures in the secret institutions. Strict silence is enforced during its building and decoration, after which, with Dukduks seated in it, it is carried in procession through all the villages, which make offerings of shell money

Photo, George Brown, "Melanesians and Polynesians," Macmillan & Co., Ltd.



PALM LEAVES FROM OVERHEAD FOR CARPETS UNDERFOOT

Rough mats plaited from the leaves of the coconut palm are the only kind made by the natives of Duke of York Island. Most of their baskets are shaped and made from cords of some vegetable material, and afterwards covered with an outer bark of rattan

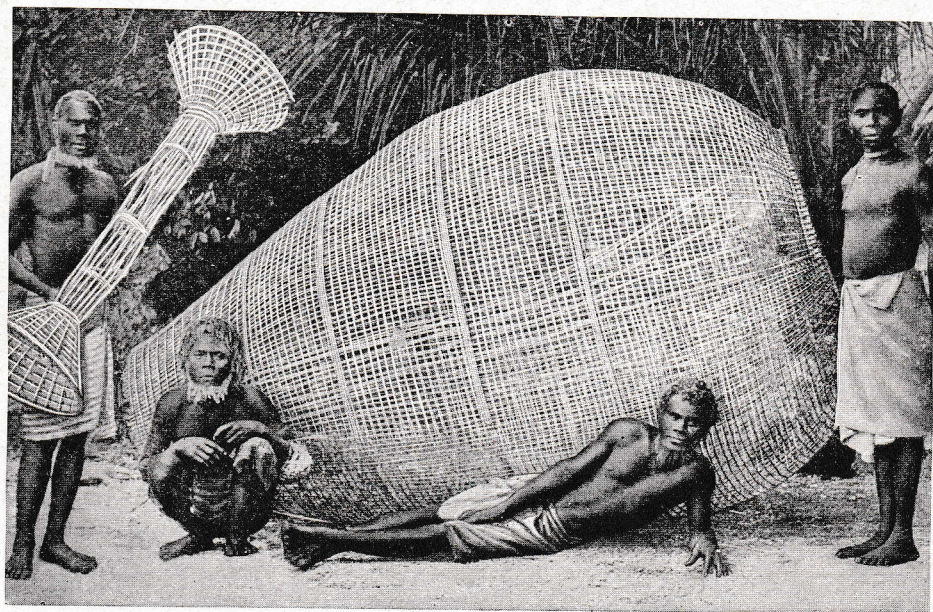
Photo, Thomas McMahon



YOUNG SEA-LORDS OF THE ADMIRALTY ISLANDS

Their canoe is a dug-out constructed to hold eight people besides the steersman. An outrigger, made of a log of light timber and fastened to the canoe by crossbars, makes it an admirable surf-boat. Sailing canoes, with an outrigger on both sides, a mat sail, and bark ropes, are also in common use

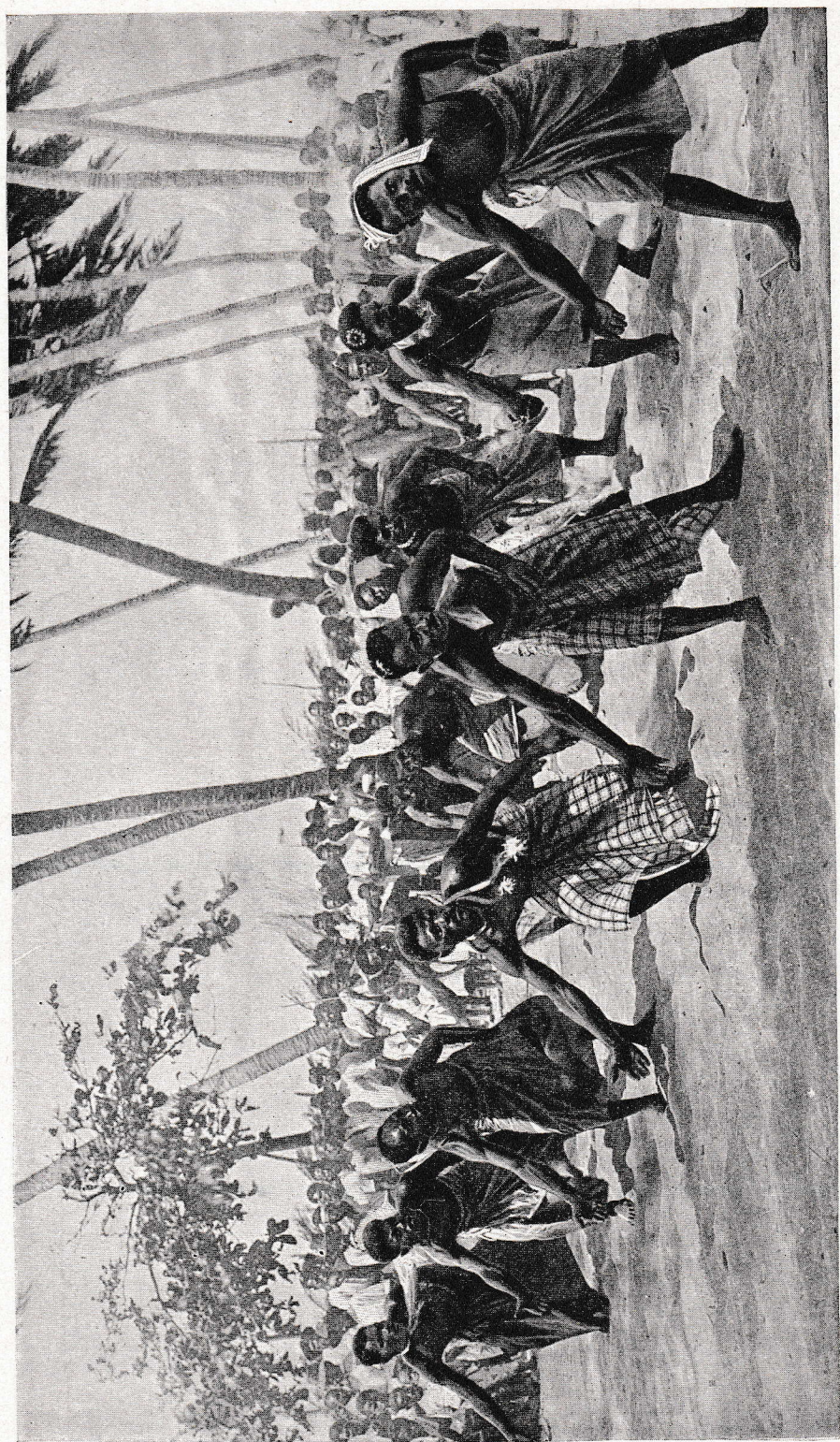
Photo, American Field Museum, Chicago



MONSTER DEEP SEA FISH TRAP OF NEW BRITAIN

It is made of split bamboos bound together with plaited rattan vines, and is about ten feet long and six feet in diameter. There is an opening at both ends, each of which converges to a hole in the centre, through which the fish pass but cannot return. The trap is anchored in deep water

Photo, George Brown, "Melanesians and Polynesians," Macmillan & Co., Ltd.



FESTAL CELEBRATION IN THE TORRES STRAITS: DANCING THE PIGEON DANCE ON MARBUAIY ISLAND

Many of the Papuan dances are action dances imitative of the movements of birds that form the tribal clan badge. In the pigeon dance the movements are gentle and slow, those of the feet being a shuffle forwards, accompanied by a genuflection downwards and outwards, those of the head being a sedate nodding backwards and forwards. The dancers thus progress in lines down the village enclosure, advancing only two or three inches at each step



SMILING MOTHERS AND THEIR WOOLLY-HEADED BROOD

Grass girdles constitute the sum of feminine attire throughout most of the islands in the Western Pacific. They evidence some manufacturing skill on the part of the women and some taste in coloration. These women and children live on Rambuzo, second largest of the Admiralty Islands. Amiable as they look, they are people with an unpleasant reputation for cannibalism

Photo, American Field Museum, Chicago

women of his own generation are either sisters or wives; to a Melanesian woman all men are either brothers or husbands.

Among the Melanesian tribes in Fiji the custom is still more curious, for their marriage with particular women is obligatory—that is to say, every child is born into the world with his or her natural mate. The men must marry their first cousin, the daughter of their mother's brother. The daughter of the mother's sister or of the father's brother is absolutely forbidden to them. She is their sister, and regarded as being as closely related as the actual sister. And so for generations quite one-third of the people have been marrying their first cousins without, so far as can be ascertained, any ill result.

Generally speaking, descent is traced through the mother and not the father, and to this is to be ascribed the extraordinary custom of "vasu," which gives the son of a pair certain powers over

his mother's native place. He may go to it, take anything he covets from the houses, tear down the fruit trees, and behave generally in such a way that if he were a stranger he would be clubbed to death forthwith.

Among the Polynesians the old religion was ancestor worship, and there are traces of it throughout Melanesia as well. Every tribe believed in a future state, and the place to which the spirit went after death was the mythical land of origin. In some of the Melanesian islands they will still show you the path which the spirits take until they come to the cliff overlooking the Western Ocean. This is their jumping-off place, and from there they are carried swiftly to a land where the yams grow larger without tillage, the sun is brighter without burning, the winds are tempered to softness, the fruits of the earth ripen to the hand without labour, the spirits of the ancestors collect upon the beach



DRESSED FOR A DANCE IN THE ADMIRALTY ISLANDS

Men and women dance separately in Melanesia. The men wear feather-decked headdresses and commonly carry sticks, which they wave to and fro and raise or lower in the various movements of the dance. Music is provided by drums, the dancers keeping up a monotonous chant

Photo, American Field Museum, Chicago

and wave welcome to the new-comer, and the spirit enjoys all the delights of an eternal feast. He might never reach this Elysium if he had been cowardly in war, or a back-biter, or a sluggard, for on the one hand Tatovu, with his axe, lay in wait for him, and on the other the dread fisherwomen, who made sweeps in the air with their nets to entangle the unwary soul. If they caught him they bit him in the head as the human fisherwomen do and threw him into their basket, and that, so far as one can gather, was the end of him.

In certain sheltered bays the natives firmly believe that female spirits of transcendent beauty make love to unwary mortals and kill them at the first embrace. They will quote the cases of well-known men found dead in these spots.

In the old cannibal days there were traces of totemism. One tribe would

venerate the shark, because a shark had ferried their ancestress over the waters into safety, another the crab or a particular bird, and in one case even mankind in general. One might not eat the flesh of this protecting genius, and therefore the tribe whose totem was a man was debarred from cannibalism.

While the old cannibals were still living, many attempts were made to ascertain the origin of cannibalism. The argument that it was due to the absence of animal food will not hold good, for there was an ample supply of fish and pork in Fiji, where cannibalism was most developed. On the other hand, there were noted cannibal chiefs upon whom the custom grew until it became an obsession. Generally, however, men were eaten as an act of triumph, and one of the bitterest taunts that could be uttered was to say: "I ate your father," or, even worse, "I shall eat

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you." There was, besides, the belief that in eating the liver of a fallen warrior his courage entered into the eater.

The attitude of nearly all the Pacific Islanders towards death is not ours. They take it, so to speak, in the day's work. It is well attested that, in Fiji, the widows of a dead chief would think it the last dishonour if they were not strangled ceremonially to his Manes, for it would always be said that their escape showed that they had been unfaithful to him. The aged and the incurably sick took their end with the same philosophy.

Jackson, a truthful observer of the early 'sixties, was actually present when an old Fijian was buried alive with full funeral ceremony. The day had been fixed with his concurrence a week or two earlier, it being understood that he should show no sign of life after he had been properly anointed, shrouded, and laid out for burial. When the time came, the air was rent with wailing.

People amputated the first joint of their little fingers in token of mourning and cast ashes on their heads. The bier was carried to the grave and lowered into it, but when the earth pattered down upon the shroud the poor old gentleman was seized with a fit of coughing, and it was not until the grave was partly filled in and stamped down that he who had been officially, became actually a dead man. There is an old lament of the soul in a Fijian epic where they sing: "The rafters of our house (the ribs) are broken with the stamping of the mourners."

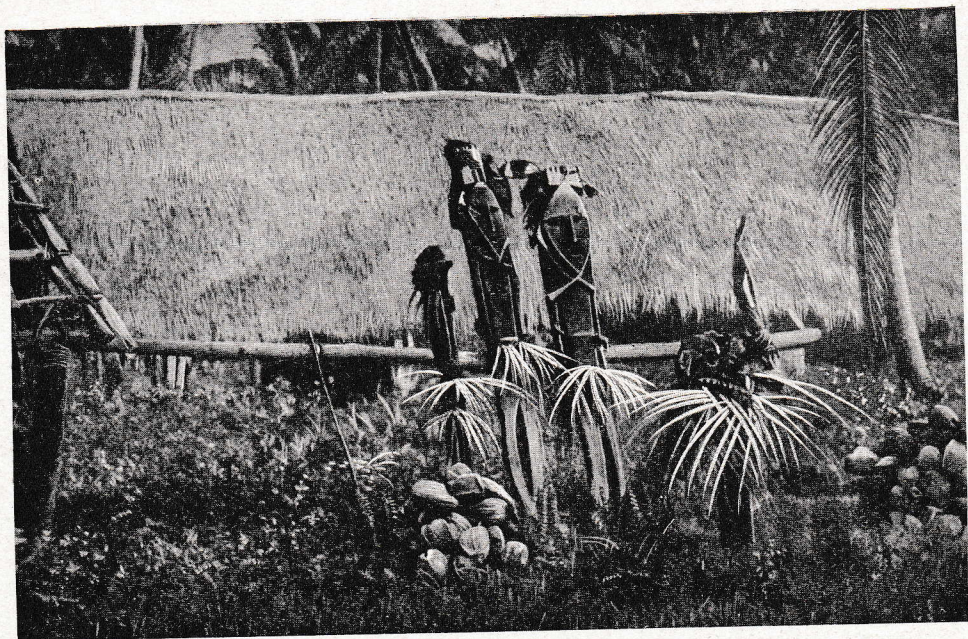
There is a strong neurotic tinge in the Polynesian and Melanesian characters. It is enough to prophesy that a man will die upon a certain day for the prophecy to be fulfilled. Thus, a few years ago, when a Fijian with the nightmare screamed out that he was possessed by the soul of a neighbour and that the neighbour would die on the following Thursday, the neighbour fell sick and came very near to dying. There is a



MEN OF A TRIBE OF SINISTER REPUTATION

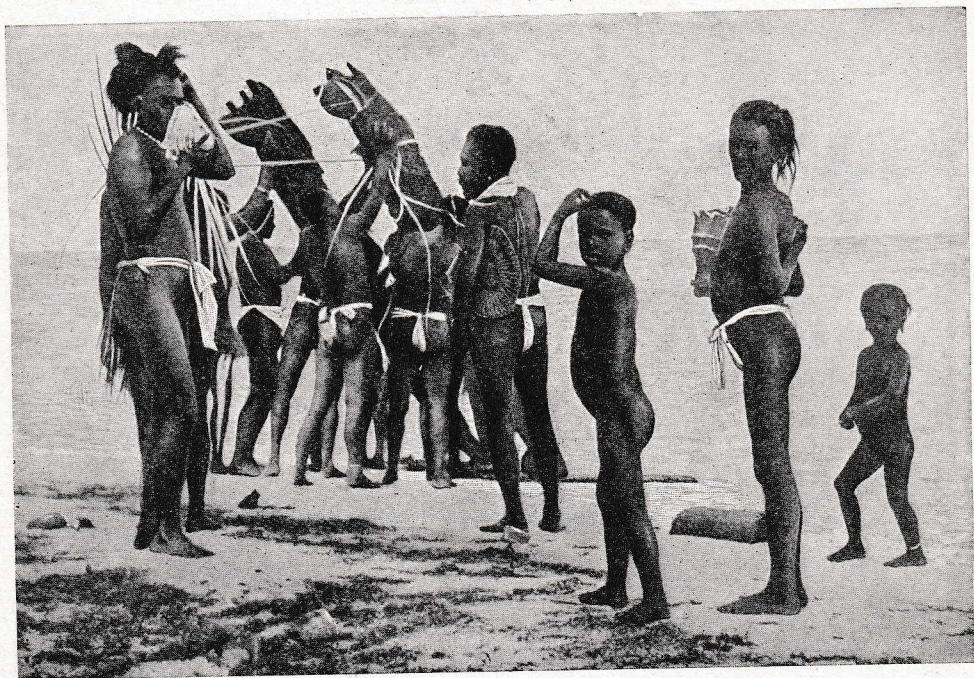
Notwithstanding their adorned and peaceful appearance they are natives of Malayta, the island in the Solomons most notorious for the blood-thirstiness of its savages. Two of these men wear the insignia of the higher order, the crescent of pearl-shell. Both men and women have holes bored right through the tips of their noses, in which they insert spikes cut from the shell of clam

Photo, J. W. Beattie



THE HOME OF THE ISLANDERS' GODS

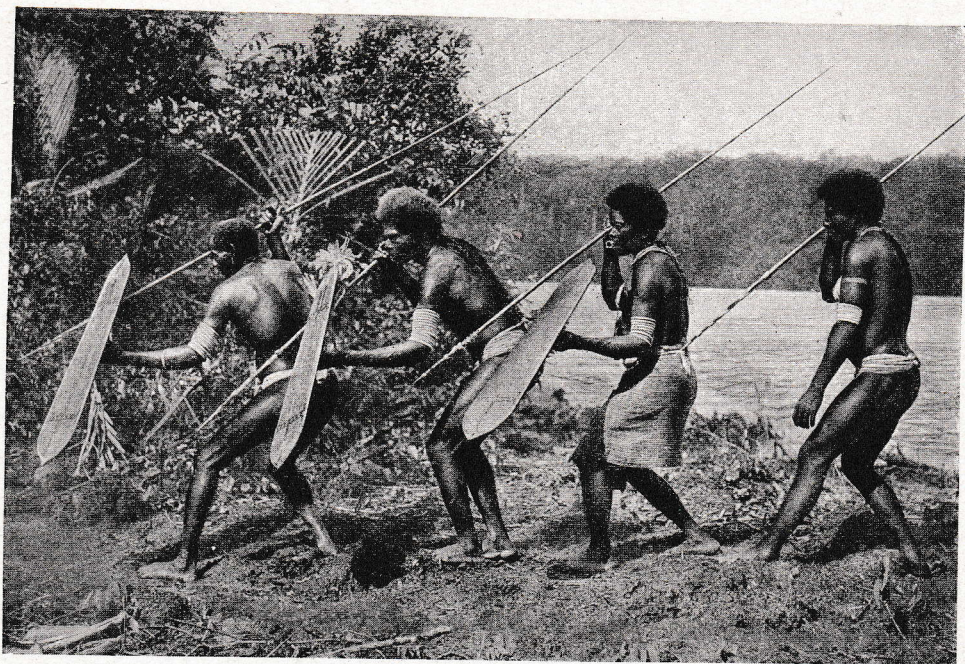
The ceremonies connected with Devil-Devil worship on the almost unknown ring of coral atolls named Ong Tong Java, which lie 200 miles north of the Solomon Islands, are shrouded in mystery, and little is known concerning them. The actual idols are here seen in front of their sacred "temple," or "tambu house." These unique photographs were taken unknown to the natives by the only white trader on the group



THE LAND-GODS' HOMAGE TO THE POWERS OF THE SEA

A Devil-Devil ceremony is in progress, and portrays the annual rite of "bowing the idols to the sea" in supplication for ample fishing harvests. On the very infrequent occasion of the arrival of the white trader's schooner from a visit to the Solomon Islands, the Devil-Devil priests board the vessel and exorcise, with many strange ceremonies, any foreign devil-devils that may be lurking aboard

Photos, Harold A. Markham



ON THE TRAIL OF AN IMAGINARY FOE

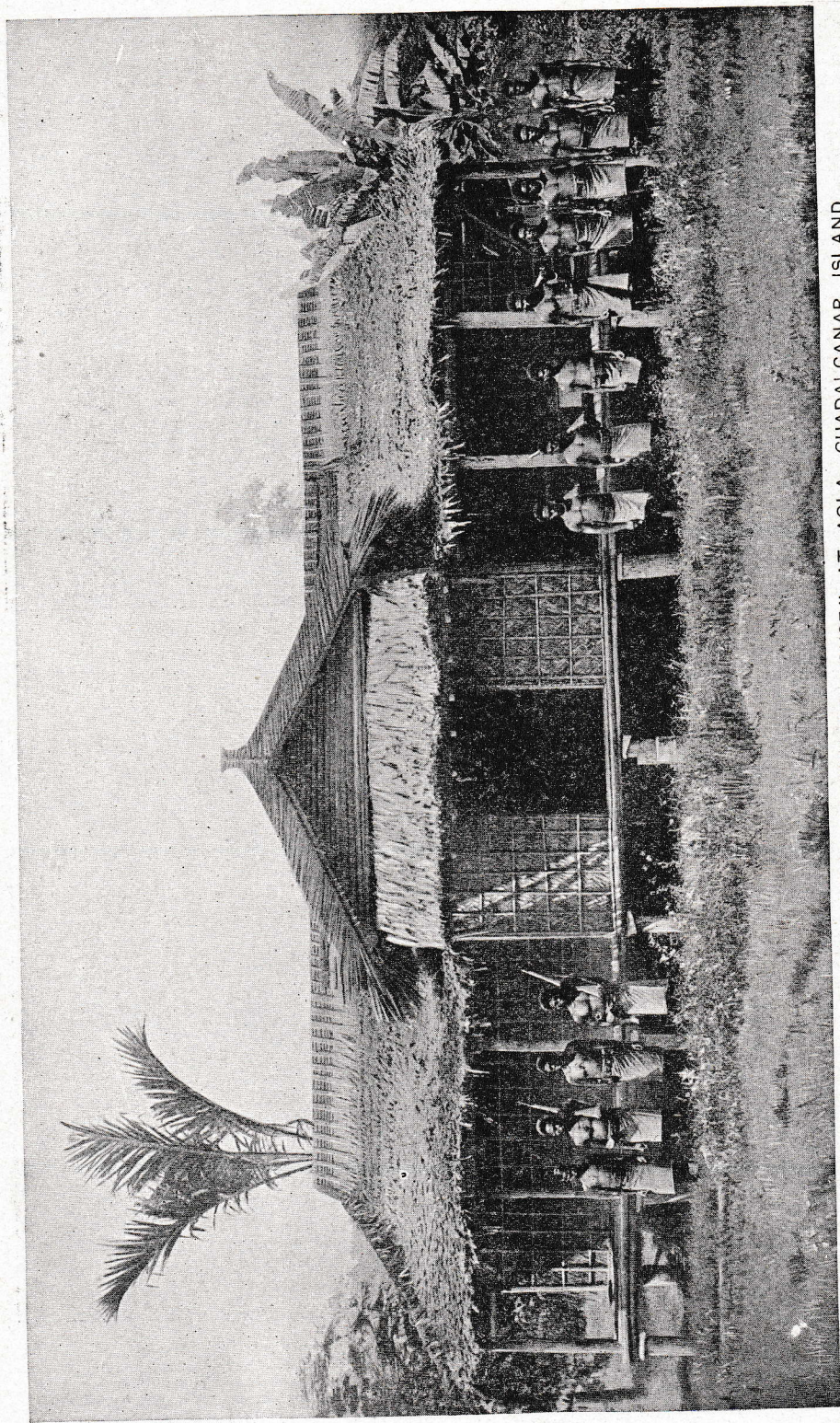
A most military spectacle, truly. This war-dance, for such it is in reality, is popular among the natives of the Solomon Islands, and to the unaccustomed eye has a distinctly menacing appearance, increased by the accompaniment of banging shields and punctuated by deep growls. The tactics employed in real warfare are those which cunning and treachery suggest, and it is very seldom that a fair open fight occurs



AT BAY! CRITICAL MOMENT IN THE DANCE

Each individual stands on guard, with shield up and spear held back at arm's length, his attitude imposing in the extreme. Considerable care must be exercised in using these formidable weapons in mock fights, for sharp fishbones are bound to the spearheads, and they are often poisoned by inserting them into a decomposed body, tetanus invariably resulting from a wound inflicted by them

Photos, C. W. Collinson



COOL AND CLEVERLY CONSTRUCTED "COURT HOUSE" AT AOLA, GUADALCANAR ISLAND

In some parts of the Solomon group it is the custom to build houses on piles at a height of several feet above the ground. It is in this building that British justice is dispensed, and the District Commissioner deals with matters which range from the trial of a native murderer to the sale of a postage stamp. The Native Constabulary is well represented by the finely built and finely trained "Police Boys" lined up in military fashion in the courtyard

Photo, C. W. Collinson



ON THE SHORE OF THE RUBIANA LAGOON

Whilst more elaborate and imposing than the general run of native dwelling-houses in the Solomon Islands, this is an excellent illustration of the method of construction. The roof, thatched with palm and pandanus leaves, is supported on a row of posts, and much artistic taste is shown in the elaborate colour scheme of dyed and plaited palm-leaves composing the front of the building.

Photo. J. F. Goldie



"THE HOTTEST ISLAND IN THE SHARKIEST WATER IN MELANESIA!"

This enticing appellation, together with that of "Chief centre of the Head-hunters," should render unnecessary any further description of the small (about fifteen miles round) island of Savo, lying to the north-west of Guadalcanar. With the acceptance of Christianity and the spread of trade, the sinister reputation of the Savoans as head-hunters is steadily disappearing.

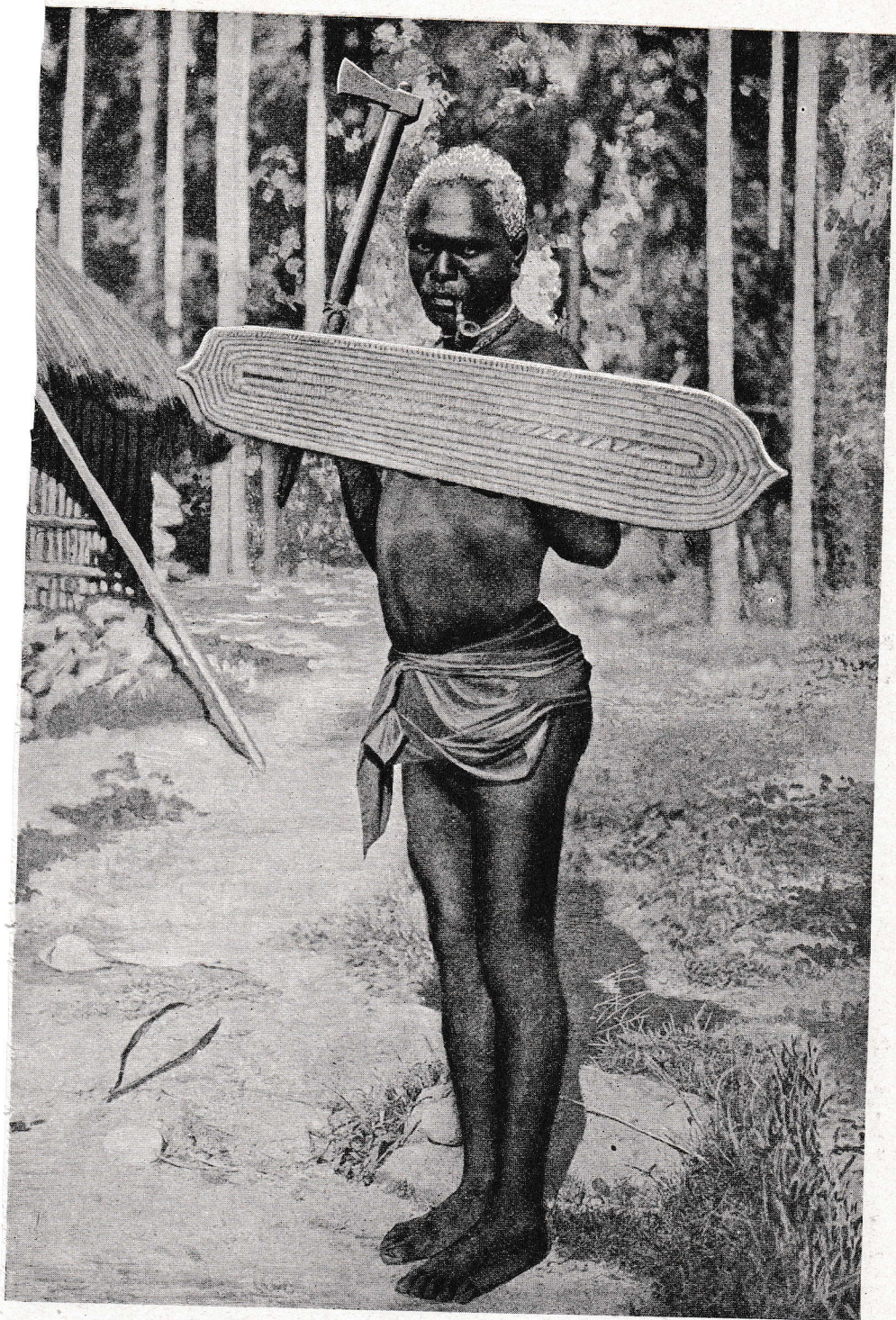
Photo. Douglas Rannie, "Adventures Among South Sea Cannibals."



BENIGN IN APPEARANCE, BUT BELLIGERENT BY NATURE

He is a veritable Berserker when roused, and his battle fury is such as to render him almost invulnerable and irresistible. The shield he carries is, with slight local variations, common amongst all the larger islands of the Solomon group. It measures three feet in length and about nine inches in breadth, and is made of a layer of light reeds or canes lashed neatly together with rattan

Photo, C. W. Collinson



AFTER THE BATTLE THE PIPE OF PEACE

"Killy-killy" and shield seem strangely out of place in Simbo Island, where nature, by reason of her very loveliness, might surely soothe and soften the most quarrelsome of natures. Rising two thousand feet from the sea, fringed about with coral reefs, the island is resplendent from base to summit with magnificent tree-ferns, flowering plants, vines, and orchids in endless hues

Photo, C. W. Collinson



OBSERVANCE OF STRANGE RITE AMONG YOUTHS OF BUKA ISLAND

Much forethought and artistic effort is bestowed by South Sea Islanders on the headgear worn on important occasions. On the islands of Bougainville and Buka, formerly German, now British possessions, the natives manufacture marvellous headdresses, and the boys of Buka sometimes wear these weird grass globe-shaped hats, to denote that they are not yet of marriageable age

Photo, Thomas McMahon



POWDER AND PAINT ARE SOCIETY'S ORNAMENTS ON SIMBO ISLAND

Natives of the Solomon Islands often smear their hair and bodies with a paste made from coral lime. Applied to the hair it serves the double purpose of bleaching it and destroying vermin. Throughout Melanesia women have but a small measure of liberty and responsibility. Women and rank may be purchased with pigs, a wife costing from one to twenty pigs according to her attractions

Photo, C. W. Collinson



HEAD-HUNTERS IN QUEST OF ADVENTURE

Despite its fragile appearance, this war canoe from Vella Lavella Island in the Solomons is a remarkably sturdy sea-boat. The bow and stern are elaborately inlaid with pearl-shell and decorated with rows of large white cowrie shells. Just above water-line a grotesquely carved little deity is attached to the bow; he it is who spies out the hidden reef and gives warning of the approach of enemy craft

Photo, Thomas McMahon

disease well known in Fiji called "dongai," which can only be described as love-sickness. When two lovers are separated one, or both, falls into a decline and, unless drastic measures are taken, dies of dongai. The natives regard it as a form of "possession," and know of no cure for it.

It is this sort of fatalism which keeps alive the prevailing belief in witchcraft. In the Pacific the office of wizard is hereditary. He works for fees like any medical practitioner, with the difference that he is paid to help people out of this world rather than to keep them in it. His stock-in-trade is the clippings from the hair or nails or a fragment of the clothing of the person doomed to death, and with this and a few herbs and an

incantation or two the charm is buried in the thatch of the doomed man's house and almost invariably he dies. In most cases, no doubt, care is taken to convey to him that a spell has been laid upon him, and that is enough to accomplish the death by natural means, but in one famous case in Fiji that subsequently came before the criminal court, when the charm failed to work and the wizard's reputation was at stake, he lay in wait for the victim with a club, and then attended the funeral with his face blackened, which is the recognized method adopted by these practitioners for sending in the bill for their services.

The Fijian wizard has lamented more than once that his spells fail to work



AWAITING THE APPROACH OF PISCATORIAL PREY

Much skill is shown by most South Sea Islanders in the art of spearing fish; a quick eye and a quicker hand being the two great essentials. Off the islands of San Cristoval, where fishing scaffolds are erected along the reefs, a goodly collection invariably falls prey to the deadly four-pronged native spear, for mullet, bream, codfish, rays, and even small sharks can be "forked" by an expert

Photo, Douglas Rannie, "Adventures Among South Sea Cannibals"



CONICAL CAGES FOR UNSUSPECTING FISH

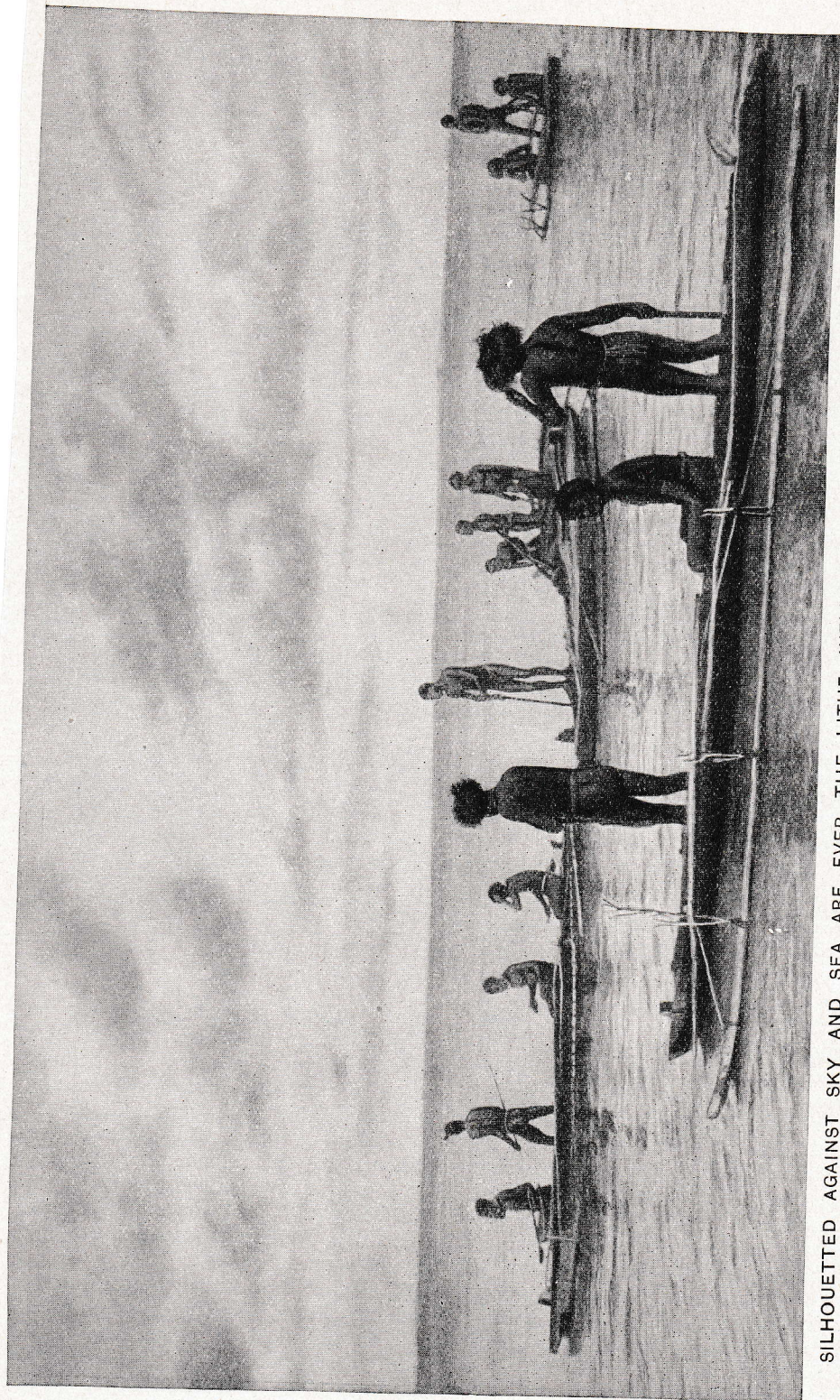
The various ingenious methods of catching and ensnaring fish employed by the natives of the Solomon Islands would furnish material for a volume. Nets of all descriptions and wicker contrivances, as seen above, are in common use. The fishers know exactly when the desired prey will come swimming to their doom—and a dexterous bite at the back of the head makes an end of them

Photo, A. Turnbull



WITH GIFTS IN THEIR HANDS AND SONGS ON THEIR LIPS THE WOMEN AWAIT THE WARRIORS' RETURN

Mystery, romance, and blood-curdling adventures have ever been associated with the Solomon Islands. Discovered by the famous Spanish navigator Mendaña in 1567, they were so named by him in order to entice his countrymen to these newly-found "Lands of Gold," which he avowed had provided King Solomon with material for the Temple. After some murderous foray on the high seas a fleet of war-canoes is here seen chasing the women



SILHOUETTED AGAINST SKY AND SEA ARE EVER THE LITHE, WELL-BALANCED FIGURES OF SWARTHY FISHERMEN

The activities of the menfolk of Ong Tong Java are confined almost entirely to fishing; the women cultivating the native gardens, preparing the food, and generally doing all the heavy work. For fishing purposes simple outrigger canoes are constructed from tree-trunks with stone and clam-shell adzes. The native fish-hook is beautifully fashioned from pearl-shell in the shape of a small fish; with the advent of the white trader it has been superseded by the European article

Photo, C. W. Collinson



EXERCISING THE PROFESSION OF HIS ANCESTORS

He is practising his skill on an imaginary enemy, but in many ways this practice would seem superfluous, for heredity has bestowed on him gratis what many another South Sea Islander would take years of strenuous endeavour to acquire. The skill of the spearman of Malayta is proverbial, and this, coupled with another and less enviable character, causes no surprise that the neighbouring islanders should seek him as friend rather than foe

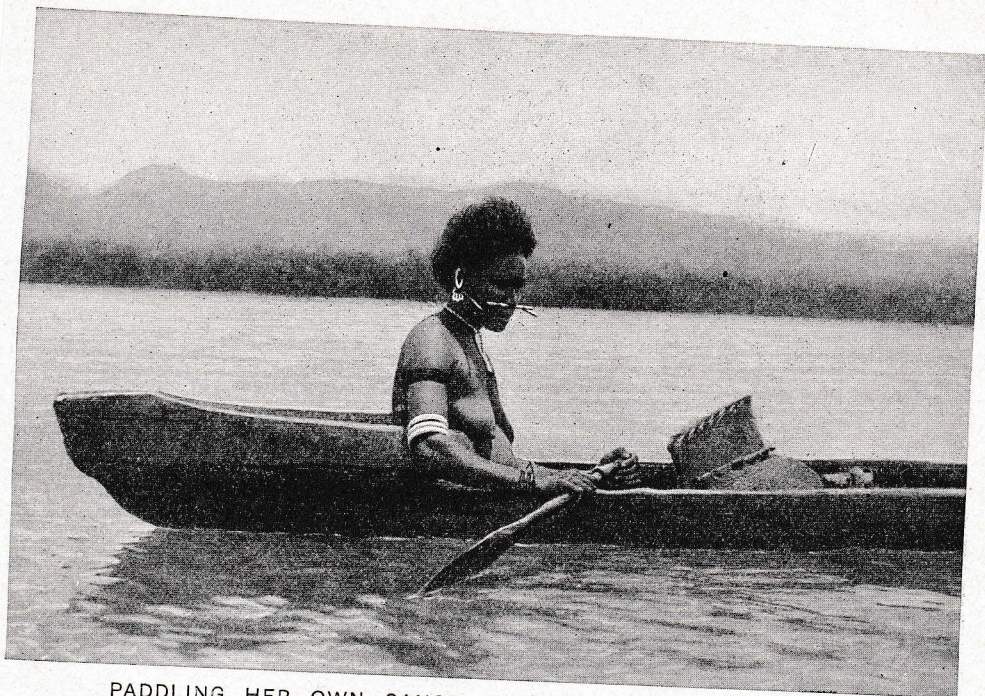
Photo, Douglas Rannie, "Adventures Among South Sea Cannibals"

upon Europeans, probably, he says, because they eat different food. The wizards are also diviners and, when a mysterious crime has been committed, it is not unusual to pay a fee for the consultation of the local oracle. He will ask his client to pronounce the names of all the persons who are most likely to have been implicated, and at the utterance of a particular name he will say that his flesh is tingling all over. In not a few cases it was afterwards proved that the wrong man had been accused.

Since the introduction of Christianity the Bible has been made to take the place of the diviner. The whole community is summoned, and each one is

required to take an oath that he or she is guiltless of the deed. Put to this ordeal, the guilty person will sometimes make a confession, but if not, and he takes the oath, he pines away under the load of his perjury and ultimately dies. When a person is attacked by a fainting fit, it is always presumed that he or she has been guilty of some moral offence, and this is usually sufficient to produce a confession.

The taboo is universal throughout the islands. From the day when the native is born until his death he must walk warily for fear of infringing some taboo, knowing that if, unwittingly, he commits one of these solecisms his liver



PADDLING HER OWN CANOE IN HARBOUR OF PORT ADAM

Bracelets, armlets, necklets, ear-rings, and nose-skewer adorn this woman of "the wild island of Mala," or Malayta, but her toilet boasts of nothing more. The personal adornments of the Mala native are really beautiful and surprisingly varied: nose ornaments comprise gilt nails, strings of beads, small tusks, carved shells, tufts of dried grass, rings, and long bamboo or bone plugs



BAMBOO WATERPOTS OF SALT WATER TRADERS

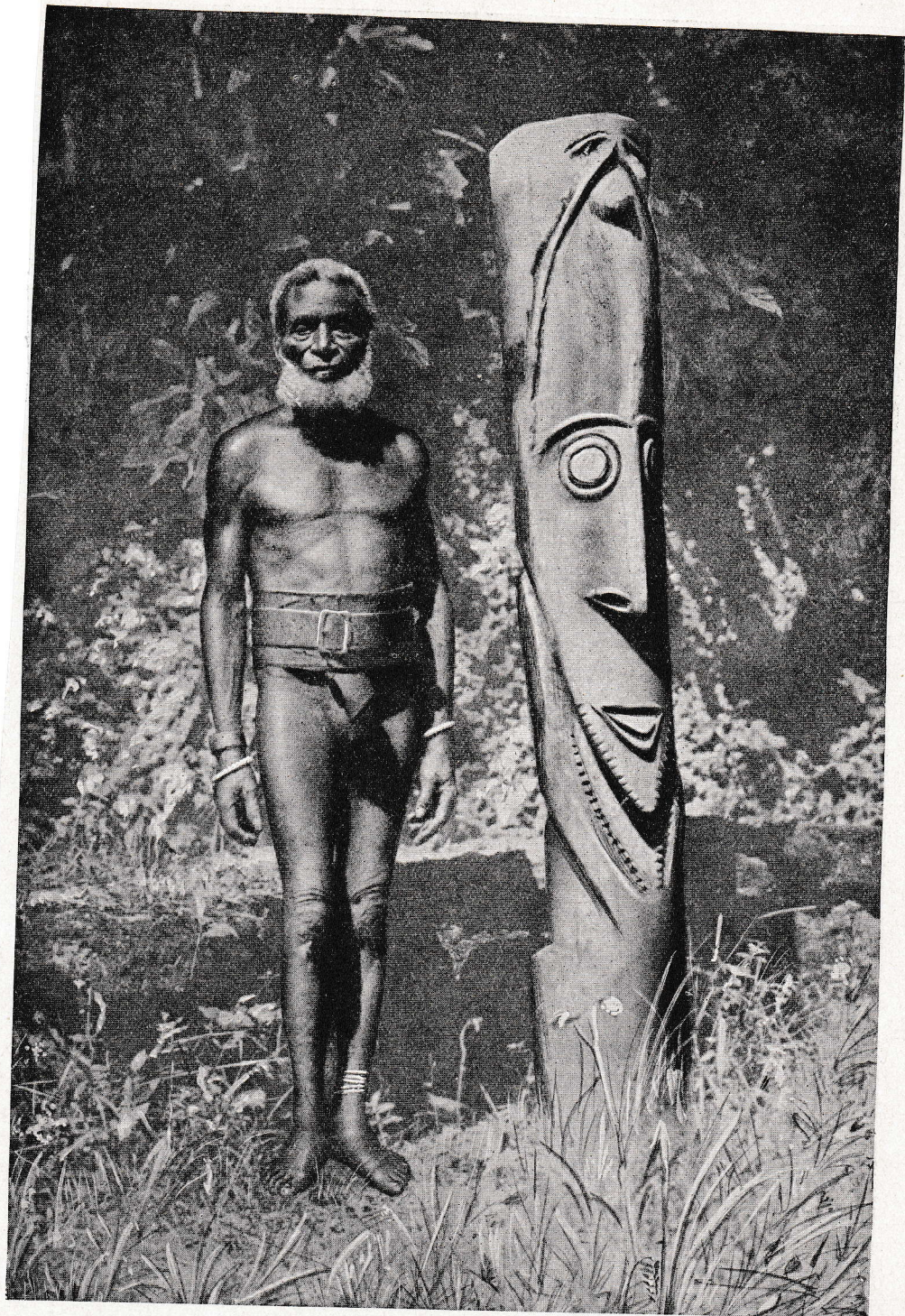
They are salt water purveyors, and, being members of a coastal tribe, encounter no difficulty in the trade. In return for fruits and vegetables, they convey salt water in bamboos to the inland bush natives, who obtain their much needed salt from it by evaporation. Betel-nut chewing is a delight of the Malayta native, and a small stick is used to manipulate the betel-nut about gums and teeth

Photo, Douglas Rennie, "Adventures Among South Sea Cannibals"



SUNSHINE AND SHADE RUN RIOT AMONG THE SILENT ROWS OF CORAL MONUMENTS IN THIS NATIVE "HAVEN OF REST"
 In this unique native cemetery on Ong Tong Java elaborately carved and painted tombstones of coral mark the graves. Here the widow of the deceased native must spend years of her life, brushing away each leaf or twig from the spotless white coral sand. Her food is brought from the neighbouring village, and she sleeps in a tiny leaf hut on the edge of the clearing. The more elaborate headstones are protected from the weather by leaf mats

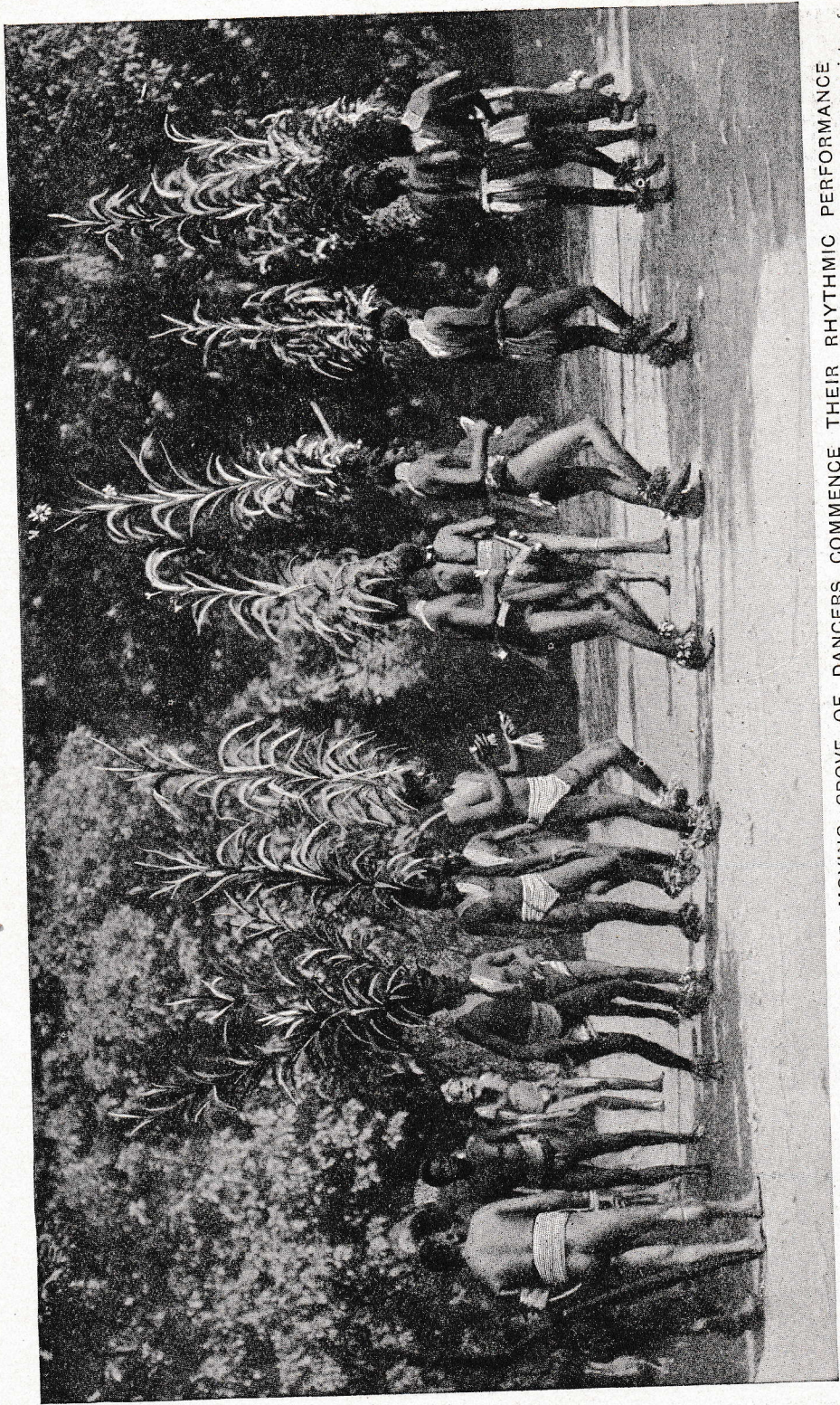
Photo. C. W.



A MAKER OF GODS: IMAGE CARVER AND HIS HANDIWORK

The sacred grounds of the gods are said to have existed from time immemorial, but missionary work is growing apace in Ambryn Island, and it is doubtful whether posterity will regard the ground or gods with the same superstitious dread as did their forefathers. This grey-haired native, however, knows all the prayers and charms which control and appease the spirits dwelling within these idols

Photo, American Field Museum, Chicago



IN MERRY-GO-ROUND FASHION THE MOVING GROVE OF DANCERS COMMENCE THEIR RHYTHMIC PERFORMANCE

There is no caste in Melanesia, but there are many ranks, and in the New Hebrides a man's prestige is still gauged entirely by his position in the secret society of which he is a member. This is indicated, for instance, by his cooking-place in the long row of ovens in the ganai or club-house, and also by his appearance in public dances, when, as illustrated, the picked dancer is painted, ornamented, and adorned with a large head-dress of an amazing height



PLAYGROUND OF THE GODS IN THE CENTRE OF A VILLAGE NOTORIOUS FOR ITS CANNIBAL FEASTS

Witchcraft is rife in Melanesia, and the inhabitants of the New Hebrides are, for the most part, bound hand and foot by their superstitious fears and beliefs. In this sacred ground, on the island of Ambryn, where only the members of certain clubs may assemble, and where the foot of woman may never tread, weird images have been set up, which are believed to be the seat of spirits endowed with strange destructive powers

Photo, Rev. W. Gunn

BRITISH EMPIRE IN AUSTRALASIA

will swell up and he will die. Tongans used to satisfy their curiosity by opening the corpses of the dead to ascertain by examination of the liver whether they had been guilty of one of these wickednesses, for it must be remembered that, according to native belief, no person dies a natural death—disease is always the work of an enemy.

Apart from the ancestor gods, there are a host of sprites to be propitiated. One of the cults that have survived to this day in Fiji is that of the Luve-ni-wai (Children of the water). These little people are only half the natural size and, like Pucks, they take a delight in interfering with human affairs. They

inspire men to great deeds, and, when the young people took to resuscitating the rites, the Government had to step in with a law, making communion with the water-sprites an affair of two dozen lashes, for in these degenerate days the water-sprites inspired their votaries to burglary, incendiarism, and even murder, as a sort of escape from the deadly monotony of semi-civilized life.

In certain districts in Fiji an alien cult, introduced from the West, has led to a good deal of controversy. Tradition says that two old men were washed up by the sea and went through the country preaching the building of "nanga" (literally, "bed") of the ancestors,

an enclosure of erect stones, not unlike the cromlechs of Western Europe and North Africa. To this enclosure the whole population repaired to present the first fruits and invoke a blessing on the crops, and this annual festival was the occasion for making the boys into men by fantastic ceremonies of initiation. Two or three of the nanga still exist and are regarded with superstitious fear.

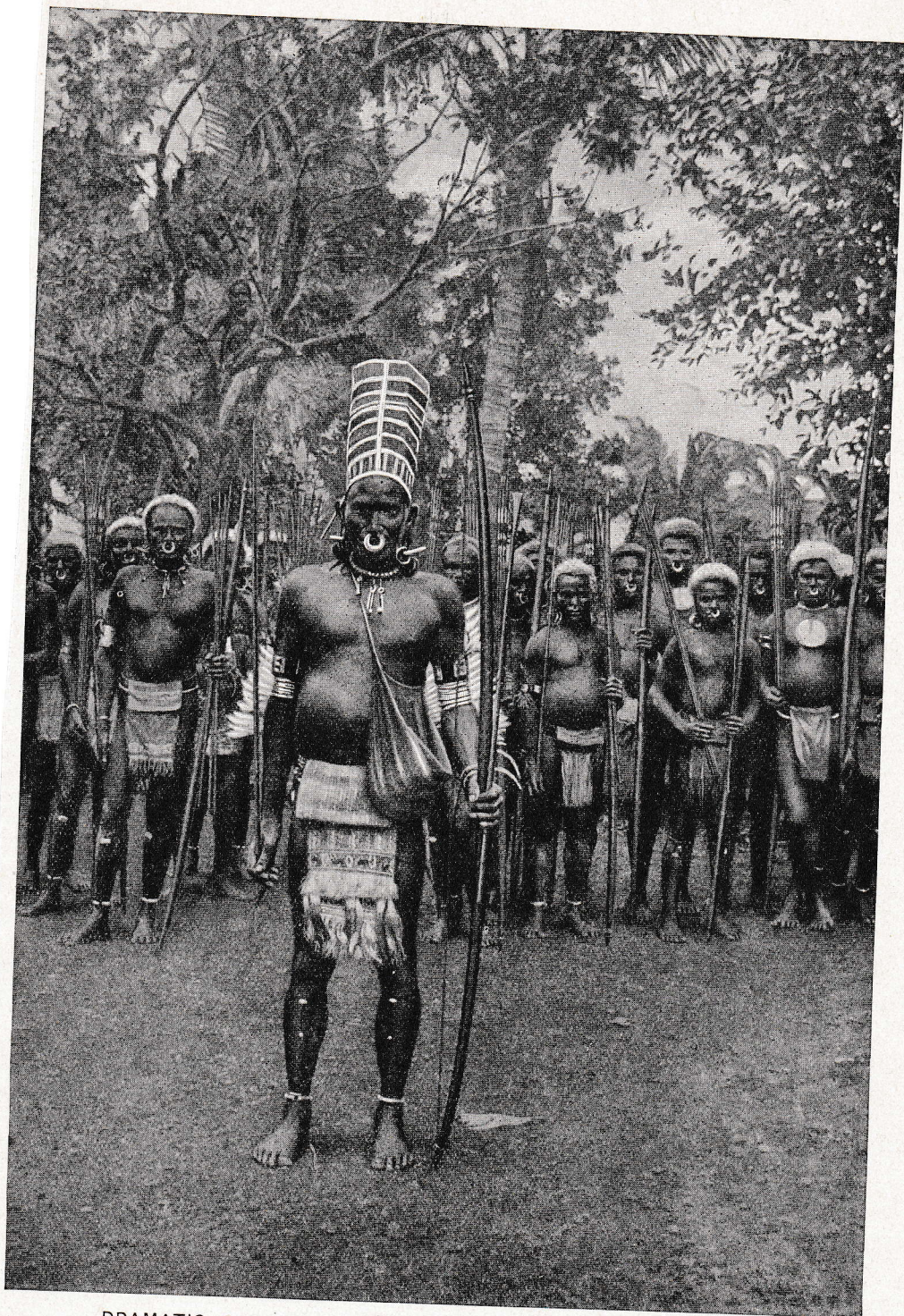
The natives, as a whole, were converted to Christianity with astonishing ease. All that was necessary was to convert the chiefs, the keepers of the people's conscience, and the rest followed as a matter of course. The great majority are Wesleyans, but the Presbyterians, the Church of England, and the Roman Catholics all have flourishing communities. They are doing invaluable work in the education of the people, but though they have been successful in putting down many barbarous practices it is



HIGH-CLASS CONTENTMENT IN SANTA CRUZ

The shining white disk proclaims him to be a man of some importance. From the septum of his nose a green stone ornament is suspended, and, having had the misfortune to break an ear-lobe, he can display but one tortoiseshell ear-ring

Photo, Douglas Rannie, "Among South Sea Cannibals"



DRAMATIC REPRESENTATION OF BOW AND ARROW AFFRAY

Until quite recently the natives of Santa Cruz practised the hideous custom prevalent in the Solomon Islands, of poisoning their spears and arrow-tips which is described on page 923. The preliminary figure of a war-dance is here illustrated; the chief taking the lead and personally conducting his own troupe. During the sham fight the poisoned arrow-head is carefully enclosed in thick leaves

Photo, Douglas Rannie, "Adventures Among South Sea Cannibals"

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not certain that they have really reached the heart of the people. As the conversion of the natives was to take place it was probably mistaken policy not to teach them English or some other European language, for their own written literature is very scanty. The missionaries preferred to make an elaborate study of the native languages themselves and employ native teachers, and perhaps, in the circumstances, it was all they could do, but they have



A FIJIAN'S GLORY IS HIS HAIR

The crisp mop of hair is one of the Fijian's most prized possessions; missionaries have tried in vain to cut it down

Photo, R. M. Clutterbuck

neglected, with very few exceptions, the technical training of the natives, from which very much might have been achieved.

The beach-comber has now passed into the region of romance and his place has been taken by the trader and planter, who passed through many lean years before they attained their present prosperity.

The European population of the

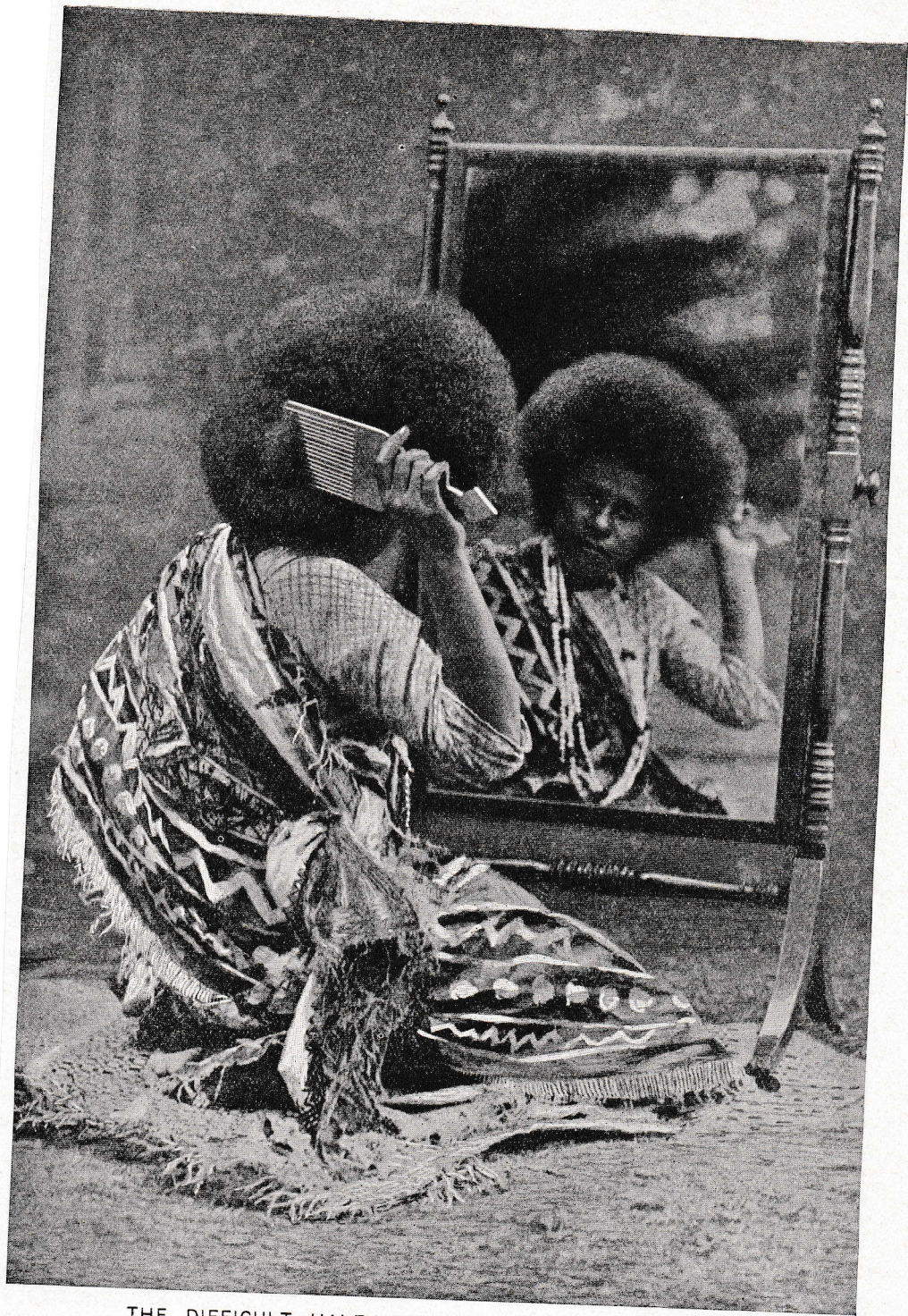
islands is still very small; in Fiji about 4,800, of whom 500 are temporarily employed at the sugar-mills as



RUDE MUSIC FROM CRUDE SOURCE

In the Fijians there is an intermixture of Melanesian and Polynesian blood. Until half a century ago they had a bad reputation for cannibalism; the present-day natives, however, are mainly vegetarians. They are fond of amusements and music of every description, and this Fijian's nose-pipe closely resembles the primitive nose-instrument of the aborigines of Malaya

Photo, American Field Museum, Chicago



THE DIFFICULT HALF-HOUR OF A MOSS-HAIRED GIRL

This Fijian girl has actually lived in England, but nothing could ever induce her to renounce her native style of headdress. Her enormous mop of black hair is manipulated by a wooden comb shaped like a spade, with teeth six inches in length. Its frizzy nature is due to each individual hair being elliptical instead of circular in cross-section, and thus tending to twist

BRITISH EMPIRE IN AUSTRALASIA

artisans, and are not permanent settlers; 1,500 compose the population of the two towns, Suva and Levuka. The rest are missionaries, civil servants, planters and traders.

The white population of the Cook Islands is only 230, of the Solomon Islands, 307, and in the Protectorate of Tonga the whites number less than 100. In the less frequented islands there are white traders keenly competing with one another, but they succumb to some extent to the influences of a warm climate and an indolent population, and some of them lose their European

energy, smartness, and cleanliness. They sell the cheaper form of European manufactured goods and buy native produce, principally copra, the dried husk of the coconut, for which vessels call periodically. Most of them have native wives and half-caste families, but the small European trader is gradually being ousted by Indians and Chinese. The former were introduced in very large numbers from India to work as coolies on the sugar plantations, and under the terms of their indentures they were free after five years to settle down in the country and, after ten

years, to elect whether they would accept a return passage to India or make Fiji their adopted country. Not a few have done this and, though they and the native Fijians regard one another with mutual contempt and have shown no tendency to intermarry, there is no friction between them.

The Chinese have drifted into the Pacific no one knows how. They are to be found more in the islands near the Equator than in those to the southward, and wherever they settle they thrive. In the larger European settlements there is municipal government and a good system of education. The people live simply in weather-board bungalows, and there is a good deal of social life, with cricket, football, and tennis. Since the Great War a certain number of ex-officers have found their way to the Pacific, and in Tonga have taken up leases of small islands, where they ought to do very well, for the rich soil of the islands yields



A FIGHTER TO THE BACKBONE

This man's spears have more than once tasted enemy blood, but with all their treachery and cruelty, their cannibalism and head-hunting, the men of Malayta, or Mala, are the bravest and the strongest in the Solomons

Photo, Douglas Rannie, "Among South Sea Cannibals"

BY REEF AND PALM
With South Sea Islanders



Manhood is in the very look of these grim Solomon Islanders, whose chief wealth is their right good shield and their long barbed spear

Photo, C. W. Collinson



Papuan waterside villages look like clumps of haystacks perched on poles. In and out of the foundations the people paddle their canoes

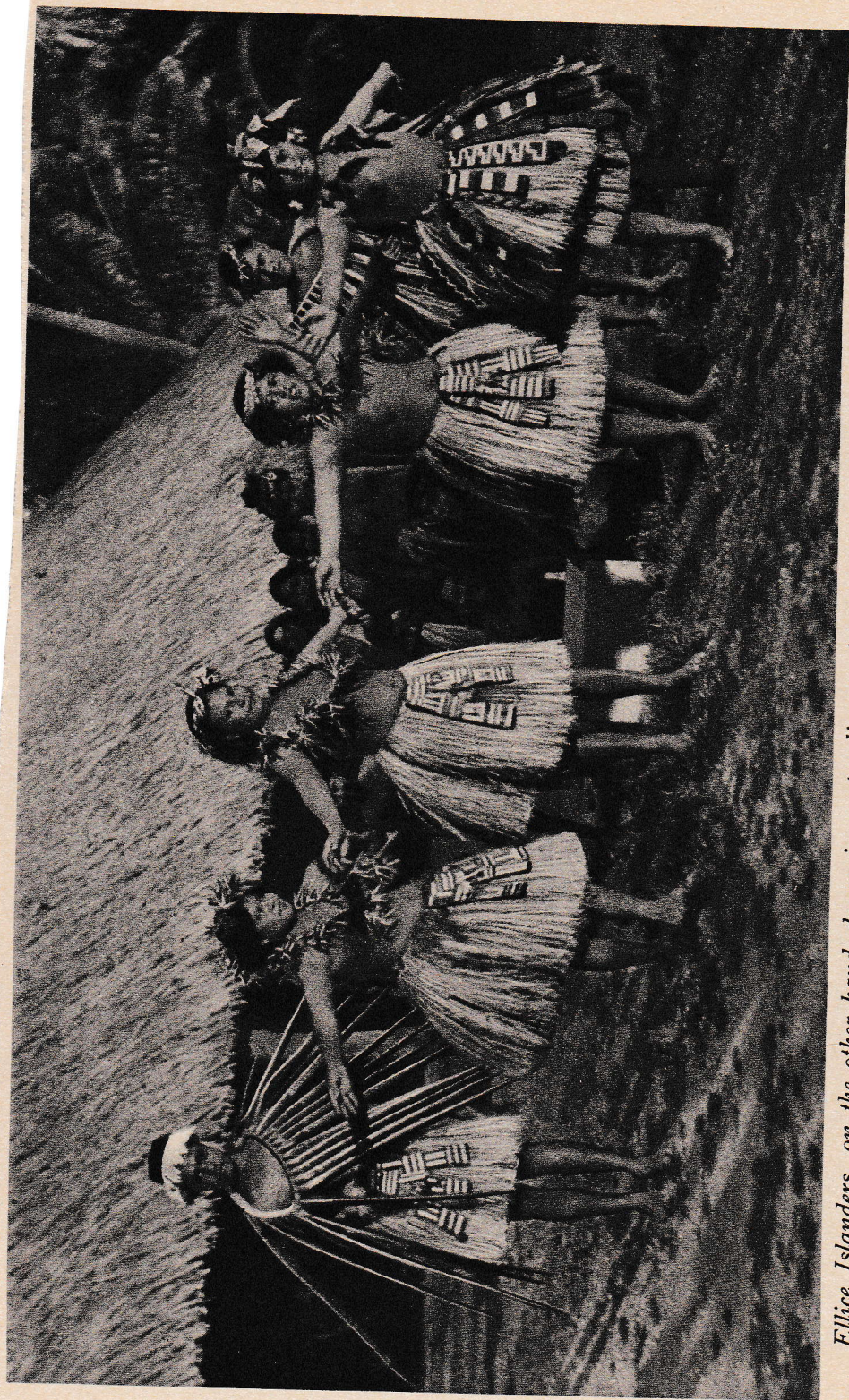


Colour is alive in the Solomon Islands—bronze folk in skirts, saffron, green, and blue, coral paths, verdant palms, white surf on azure sea

Photo, C. W. Collinson



Gilbert Islanders nearly always dance in a sitting position, keeping time by chanting. This dance consists almost entirely of lively and intricate movements of the hand and arm.



Ellice Islanders, on the other hand, dance in a standing position, swaying the hips and arms and meanwhile singing scriptural songs. They make a lusty noise, but a musically harmonious one withal

Photo, W. S. Knox



Light skinned and finely built, Tongan women are very prepossessing, amiable, and gentle, and with a flair for coquettish costume

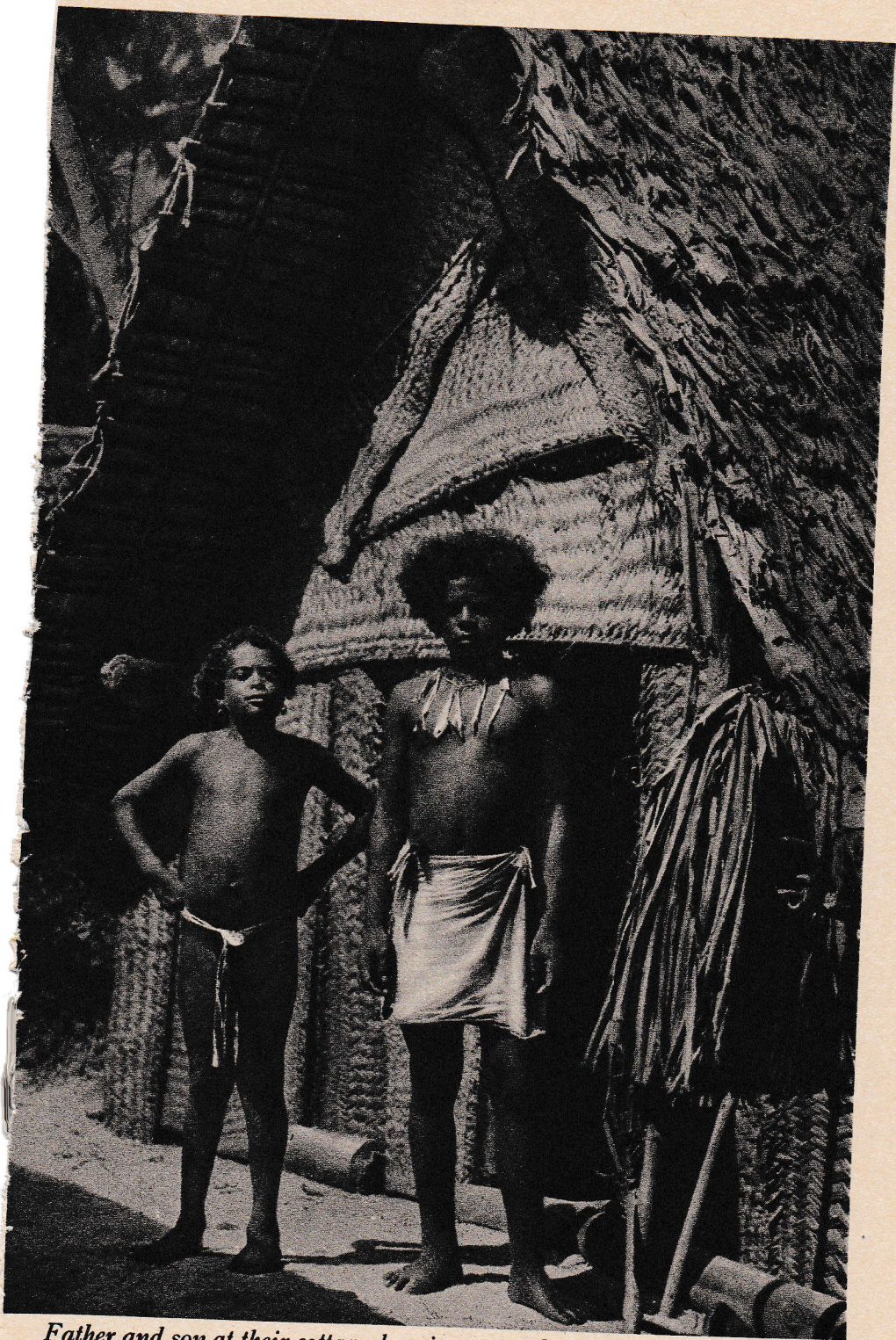


Social rank and status are much revered by the Tongans, and hedged in by a rigid code of etiquette. This is a lady of high degree



It is a family heirloom this young dandy of Rubiana Lagoon so rakishly wears over one eye—an exquisite plaque of clam and tortoiseshell

Photo, J. F. Goldie



Father and son at their cottage door in remote Ong Tong Java. Much artistic skill is shown in the pandanus palm houses of these people

Photo, C. W. Collinson



Pipes of the great god Pan are known to savage tribes the world over. It is on that age-old instrument these Solomon Islanders are shrilling

Photo, C. W. Collinson



Almost all the Solomon Islander's skill in turning bead, shell, and fibre to artistic use is displayed on this fine native's person

Photo, C. W. Collinson



At the Horiomu ceremony at Mawatta, Papuan men dance swathed in coconut fibre, their faces masked with leaves, and carrying bows and arrows, thus impersonating the living spirits of the dead



Much fiercer is this Fijian "meke," or war-dance. In this savagery appears in its most ferocious guise, killed, shell-hung warriors gyrating, brandishing weapons, and uttering blood-curdling cries

Photo, George Brown, "Melanesians and Polynesians," Macmillan & Co., Ltd.



Fishing on the coral reefs is a good and pleasant sport. Fishes, molluscs, and crustaceans provide much of the Fijians' food supply



Kandanu is, perhaps, the loveliest of the islands of Fiji. It is in conditions of ideal beauty that this native is building his canoe

Photos, Sir Basil Thomson, K.C.B.

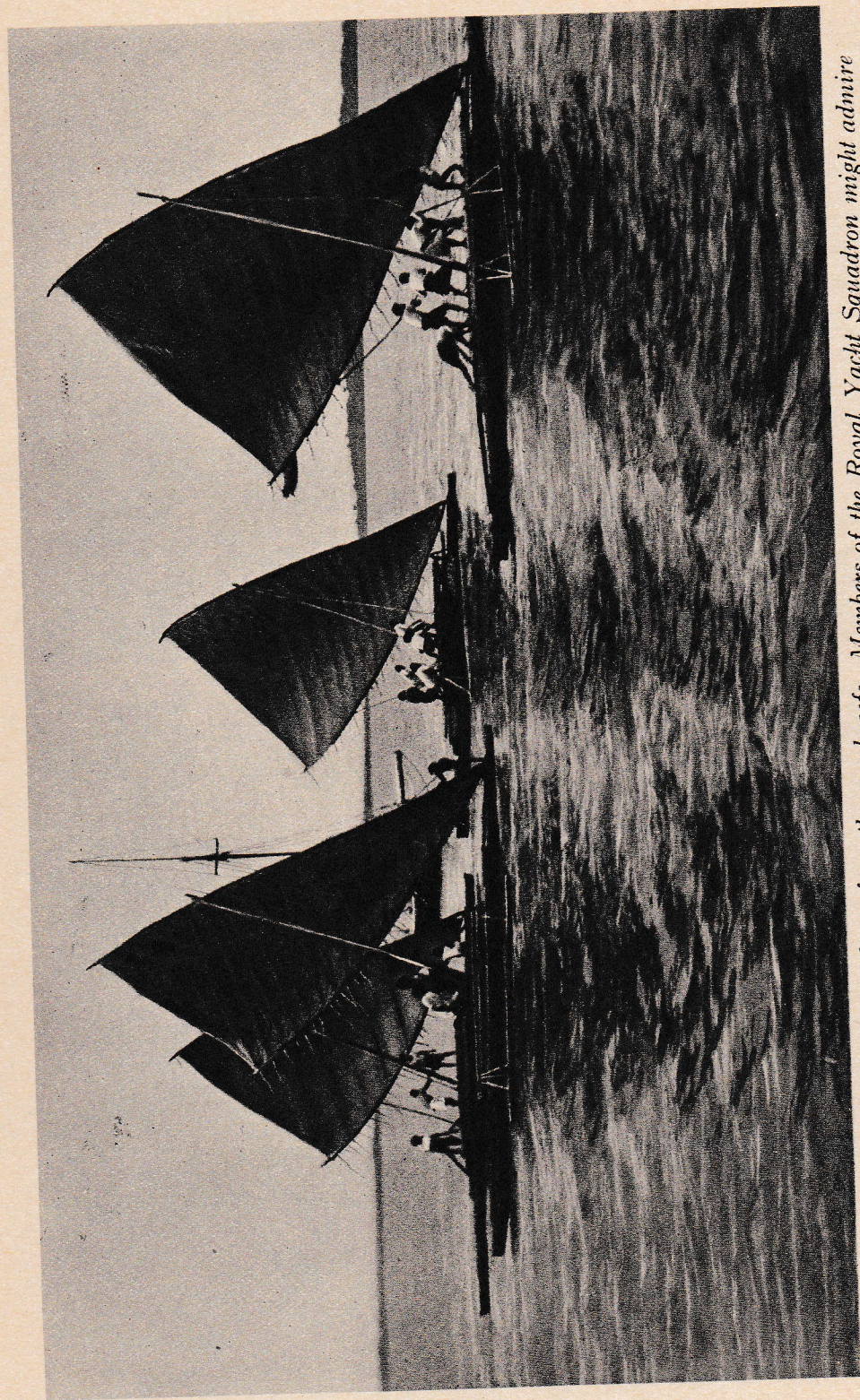


Appetite and digestion are both good in Fiji, and when a feast is toward, an army of sturdy waitresses is needed to carry round the dishes



There is no mock turtle at a banquet in Fiji. The mouth of a City alderman might water at this prospect of real calipash and calipee

Photo, Sir Basil Thomson, K.C.B.



Rounding the mark home from the coral reefs. Members of the Royal Yacht Squadron might admire the way Fiji Islanders, watermen from infancy, handle their double outrigger sailing canoes

Photo Sir Basil Thompson

BRITISH EMPIRE IN AUSTRALASIA

astonishing crops, and as long as the market for tropical produce remains good, a hardworking man can make more than a bare living.

The climate of nearly all the islands, except the Solomons and Santa Cruz, where there is much malaria, is not unhealthy for Europeans. White women suffer more from the tropical heat than men, but both sexes are healthy, and live to an advanced age.

There is no antipathy between the whites and the natives, but there is not much intercourse between them, chiefly because of the language difficulty. Each of the three races who are to mould the destiny of Fiji—British, Indians, and Fijians—lives its life aloof, each secretly regarding the other as a lower

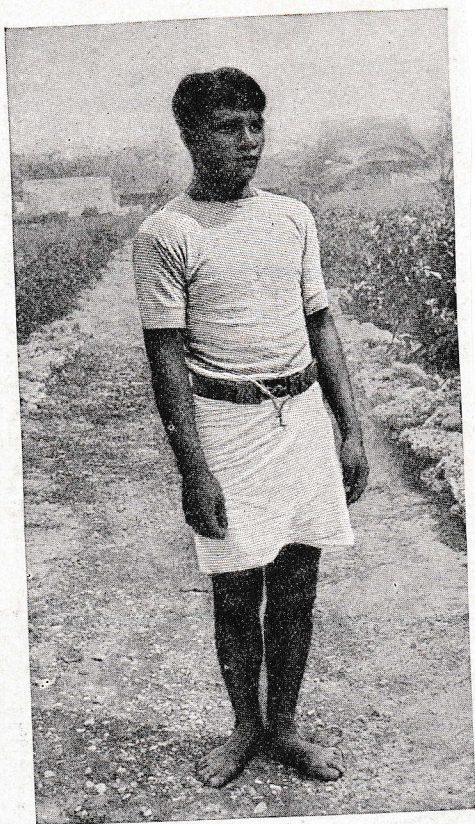
form of humanity. In the islands where the whites are greatly outnumbered and scattered, the Europeans fraternise on more equal terms with the natives, and some of them acquire great influence over the chiefs. The others treat the chiefs with deference and take the native code seriously. A few believe firmly in the native superstitions and native medical practices. Besides the supernatural treatment of disease there are hereditary herb doctors, usually women, who hand on the secret of their drugs from mother to daughter. Many Europeans believe implicitly in the skill of these practitioners. Their surgery is very crude, but it is just possible that some of the herbs they use are unknown here and



"HOW SADLY OUR CANNIBAL FEASTS HAVE DEGENERATED!"

The flowers entwined in their bushy black mops indicate the festive spirits of these hungry Fijians who, around a ground-oven, are watching the various stages in the transformation of pig into pork. Not so many years ago their chief table luxury was "long pig," human flesh supplied by friends or foes; nowadays, thanks to missionary influence, mere "pig" provides the favourite dainty

Photo, American Field Museum, Chicago



EVOLUTION OF DRESS AMONG THE SOUTH SEA ISLANDERS

Before the missionary suggested dress, the primitive, natural, and healthy covering of the native of Oceania was generously bestowed by nature, and consisted of a scanty collection of leafy sprays and flowers. In his neat, but unhealthy, European clothes, the native finds himself at a disadvantage. He cares not whether they be clean or dirty, wet or dry, and the inevitable result has been that diseases and lung troubles have become very prevalent

Photo, Thomas McMahon

may have valuable properties. The diseases prevalent among the natives are whooping-cough, dysentery, influenza, and, in certain of the islands, malaria and elephantiasis. Leprosy is destructive only in the islands to which it has lately been introduced. Where it has been long established it remains stationary. Whooping-cough is responsible for an enormous number of deaths among infants. Generally speaking, diseases which we regard as mild are virulent where they find a virgin soil. Measles, when it first visited Fiji, carried off a third of the population. It is now endemic and far less destructive.

Elephantiasis is particularly prevalent in Rotumah, where Europeans suffer from it, but it is to be found throughout the islands. It is not yet

established how the *filaria sanguinis hominis*, the microbe of the disease, is introduced into the human body. The anopheles microbe of malaria is not found farther east than the New Hebrides; it is very active in Papua. Prone as they are to succumb to mild diseases, the natives are extraordinarily resistant to physical shock. It is quite a common thing to find a man who has had his hand blown off by dynamite, used to kill fish, and the stump has set naturally without any surgical treatment. Accidents that would kill Europeans are survived and recoveries are so rapid that the Europeans think the native to be insensible to physical pain.

Though the natives are not prone to suicide, there are a good many suicides in the aggregate. They are generally committed on a sudden



CIVILIZATION AS HASTENER OF SICKNESS AND DEATH

The first is a case where the man has proved "worthy of his cloth." Six foot six, and splendidly built, this sergeant-major of the Ellice Crown Colony Police Force served in France with much distinction. The thoroughly civilized dress of the second man, however, is quite unsuited to the climate, and the British administrators are advising the natives to return to their simple "ridis," or loin cloths

Photo, Thomas McMahon

impulse from a sense of shame at the discovery of a hidden liaison, or some other scandal. The common way is to climb to the top of a coconut tree and throw oneself down, but there are also poisonings by herbs, such as the *langaingai*.

The islands are passing rapidly from the phase of trading in raw material into that of agriculture. Before 1860 the natives only cultivated sufficient land for their own support, and the few European settlers lived as parasites upon them. As the settlers grew in numbers, the natives began to plant coconuts and to manufacture oil for export, but it was not until the American Civil War, when the price of cotton rose enormously, that there was any organized investment of capital in the islands. With the end of the war, cotton ceased to be profitable, and the

settlers fell back upon copra, the sun-dried kernel of the coconut from which the oil is pressed. Up to about 1900 the price of copra was so low that the plantations could scarcely be worked profitably, but from 1910, and especially since the Great War, the local price has risen, and the area under coconut cultivation in Fiji alone exceeds 30,000 acres. A number of small islands in other parts of the Pacific have been leased for a term of years to a British firm of soap makers to grow coconuts as material for soap. The rather desultory work of a copra plantation suits the Melanesian temperament very well.

As soon as Indian coolies were available the planters began to cultivate sugar. One by one the smaller companies failed, ruined by the bounty-fed beet sugar in Europe. In two years after the war sugar paid very



STAUNCH SUPPORTERS OF BRITISH DISCIPLINE

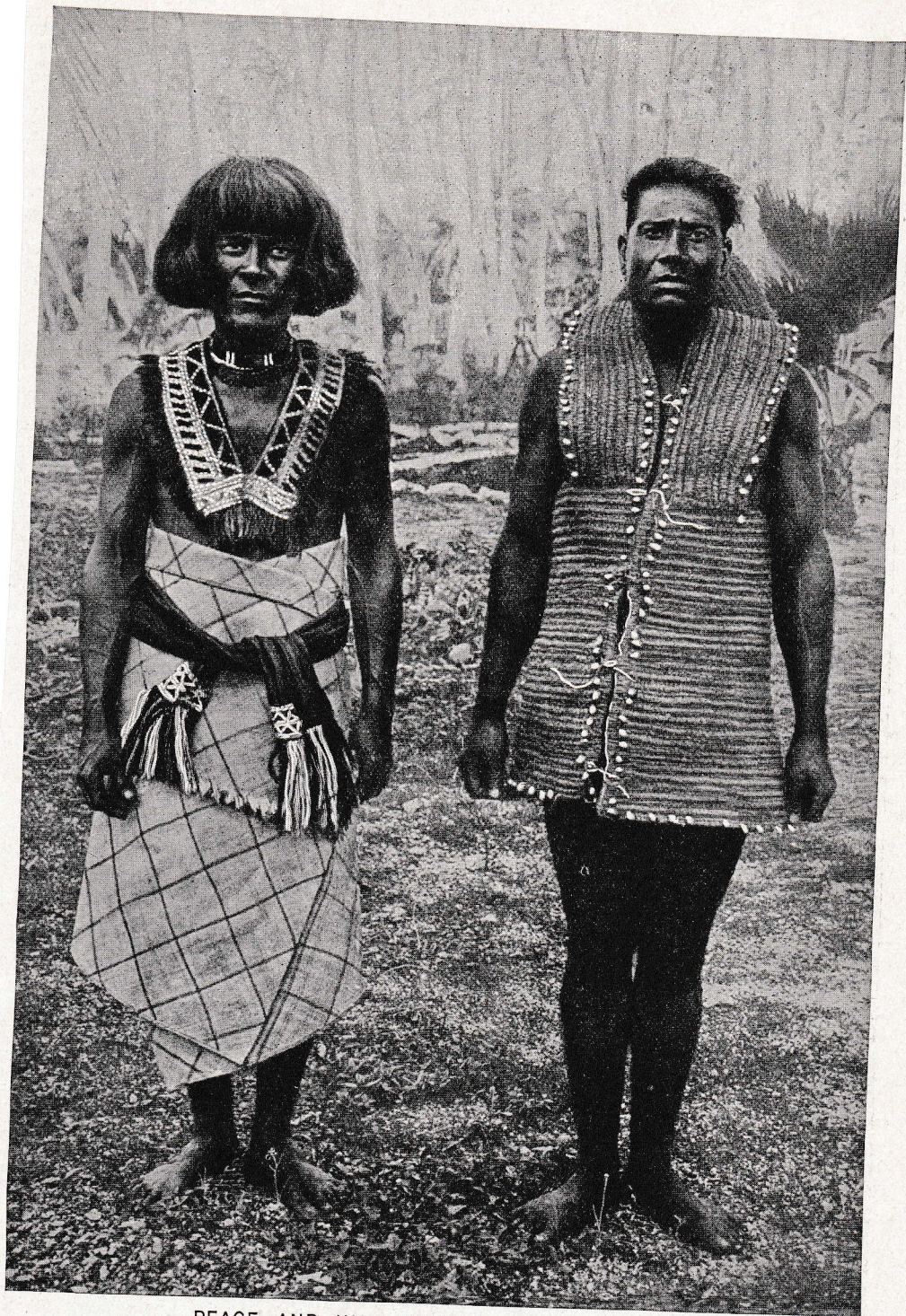
Although only five miles in circumference, Ocean Island, lying to the south-east of Nauru, may be reckoned as one of the richest islands in the world for its size. Its vast deposits of phosphate of lime render every acre of great value. The native police force is composed of fine, strapping men, possessing remarkable ability for acquiring the principles of European civilization



THE DRILL HOUR OF NAURU GUARDIANS OF THE PEACE

Nauru, or Pleasant Island, formerly belonged to Germany, but was made over by the Peace Treaty to Great Britain. Here is a squad of the new recruits of Nauru, and in these stalwart natives we see one of the finest, though one of the smallest, police forces of the British Empire

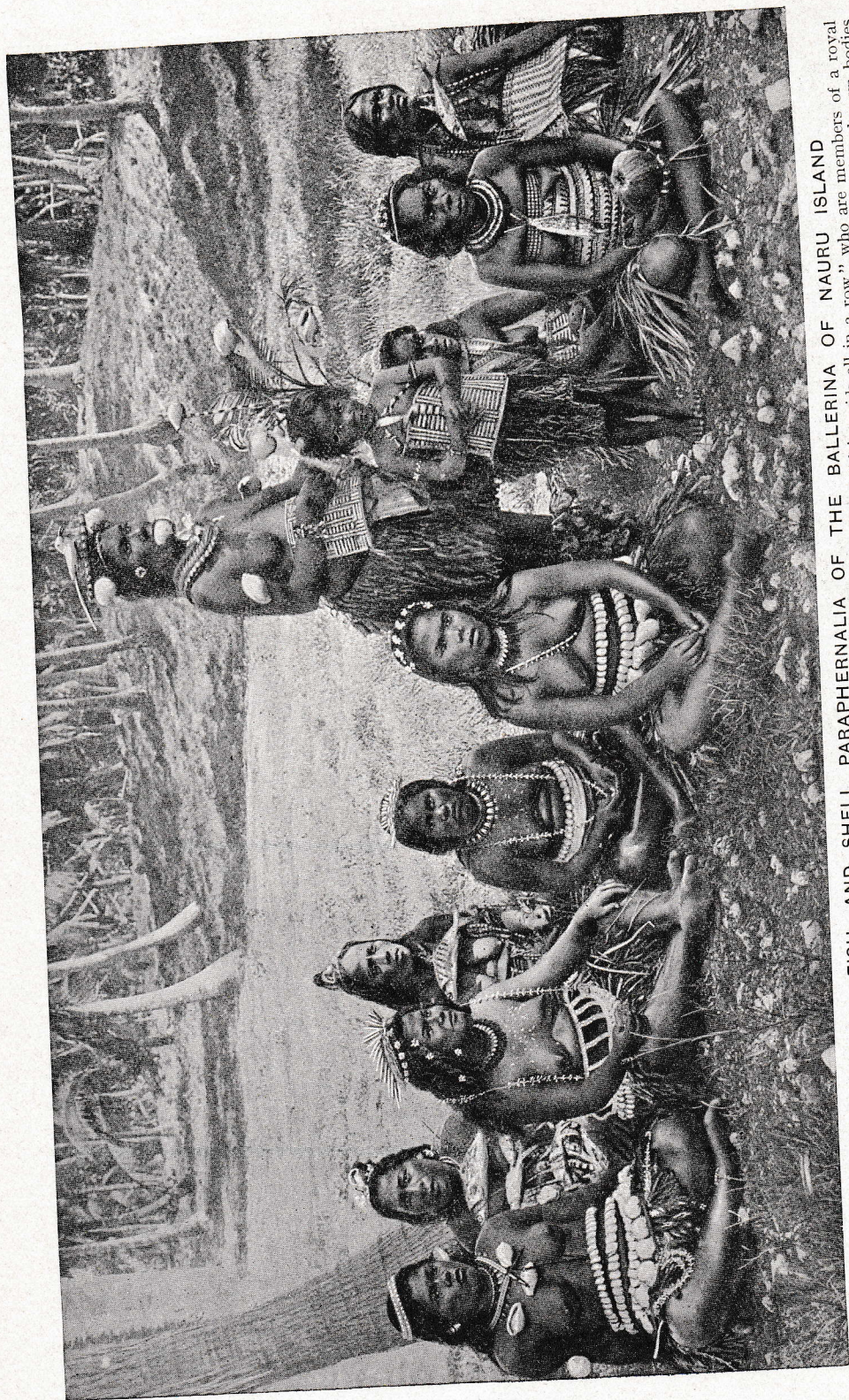
Photos, Thomas McMahon



PEACE AND WAR STANDING SIDE BY SIDE

The ceremonial costume and the war dress of the natives of the Gilbert Islands are remarkable for their scanty simplicity. Although the war costume is the more meagre of the two, it is by far the more important in their eyes, and stands for the stoutest plate armour. It is of plaited coconut fibre, and believed to be bullet-proof. For everyday wear waist-cloths of pandanus leaf are used

Photo, Thomas McMahon



REMARKABLE FLOWER, FISH, AND SHELL PARAPHERNALIA OF THE BALLERINA OF NAURU ISLAND

Conch and cowrie shells and brightly-coloured fish play an important part in the dancing costumes of these "fair maids" who are members of a royal ballet, and are excellent dancers. Crowned with dainty wreaths of pawpaw blossoms, with chains of the same tiny flower hanging round their bare brown bodies glistening with coconut-oil, they dance lightly and noiselessly over the ground to the soft, rustling accompaniment of their "ridis," or primitive skirt of pandanus leaves



FESTAL ATTIRE OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE FISH DANCE

The dance trappings of the ladies of Nauru are both novel and picturesque, as is illustrated by the above extraordinary decorations donned by the dancers in the celebrated Dance of the Fish. These fish have a two-fold significance; brilliant ornaments during the dance, they form the "feast" at its conclusion, when the dancers, detaching them from their exhausted persons, regale themselves with this well-earned raw and ready refreshment

Photo, Thomas McMahon

well, but the industry suffered later in the universal world depression. Next in importance to the copra and sugar industries is the banana, which is grown near the seaports and exported to Australia and New Zealand. Oranges and pineapples are also beginning to pay. Among the minor products are coffee, quinine, and vanilla, and rubber is now beginning to be planted. The ivory nut, which is used for the manufacture of buttons, is peculiar to the Solomon Islands. The marine products are declining. Formerly, a sea slug found on the reefs and known as the *bêche-de-mer* was a profitable export to China, where it sold for more than

fifteen times the cost of production. Pearl shell and turtle shell and the dried fins of the shark are also marketable, but are becoming scarce.

A recent discovery was rock phosphate. Over many of the more lonely islands there is a bed of this valuable chemical manure from one to four feet thick. It is supposed to be formed by the filtration of rain water through guano into the loose-grained coral. It is very easy to quarry and collect, especially where there is a natural anchorage. Portable tramlines are laid down from the beds to the shipping place, whence the phosphate is transported to the ship in lighters. The discovery has resulted

BRITISH EMPIRE IN AUSTRALASIA

in a number of islets becoming British. This has caused a scarcity of native labour, but so far it has been possible to recruit natives from the more populous islands for short terms, and this may continue until the beds are exhausted.

It is a lamentable fact that the native population of the Pacific Islands continues obstinately to decrease, in spite of every effort made by the British government to arrest the decay. It is not so much the change of custom, though that has had its influence, as the ravages of imported disease against which the natives have not yet been

inoculated. Until recently, the birth-rate, where it was recorded, was above the European average, but the infant mortality more than swallowed it up. The chief reason for this was the absence of any kind of infant food. It was the practice in the old days for a mother to suckle her child for three years until it was able to digest ordinary food. The influence of the missionaries reduced the period to about a year, and most of the deaths take place between one and three years, when the children seem to be peculiarly susceptible to the European infantile diseases — whooping-cough, measles, etc. Gradually, however, the

population seems to be acquiring immunity, partly through their love of travel; and probably the time will come when the decay will be arrested and the population will begin slowly to increase.

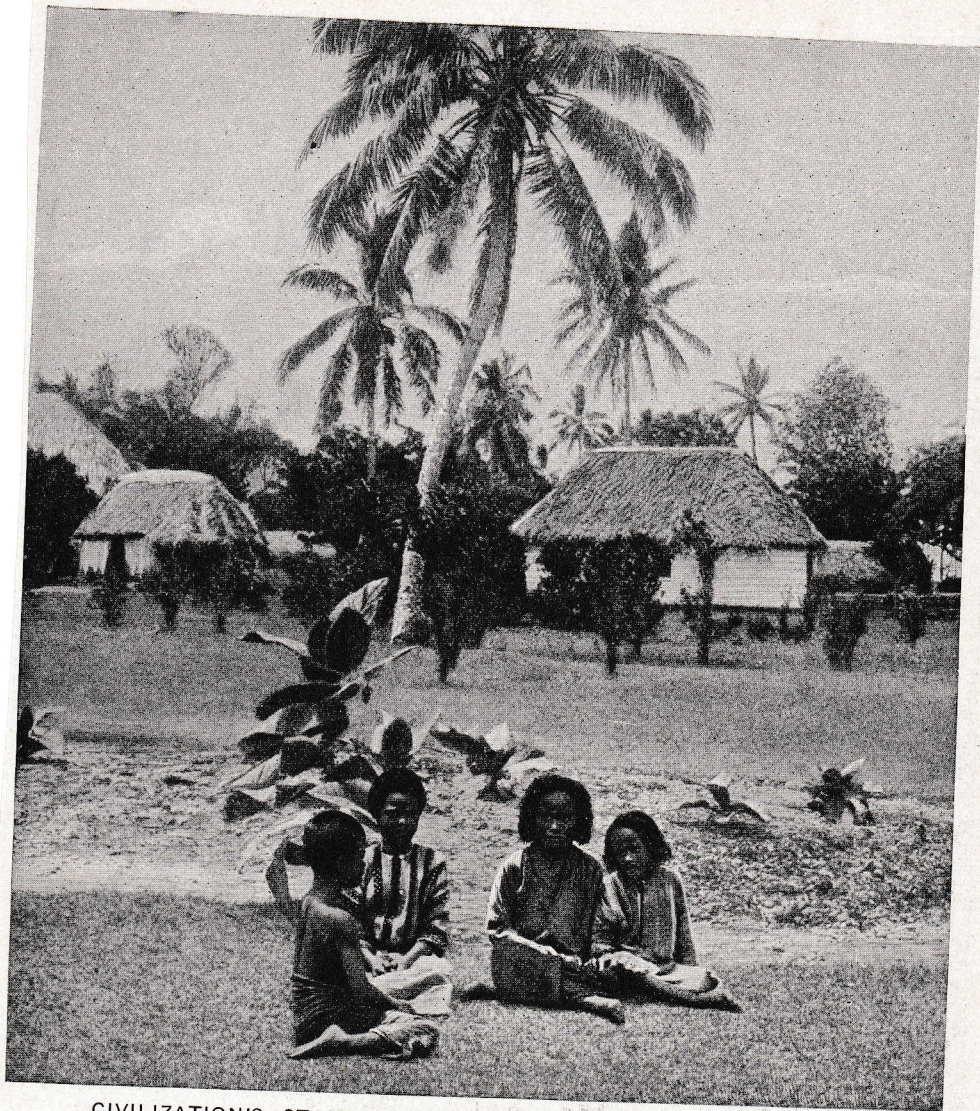
It is difficult to predict how the various races will be found fifty years hence. So far, there has been no tendency towards inter-marriage, except in a very limited degree, between the white settlers and the Polynesians. The two most numerous races — the Melanesians and the Indian coolies — in Fiji do not inter-marry, but keep stolidly to their own kind, and the Indians are increasing far more rapidly than the natives. Whether the one race will oust the other, or they will intermingle, it is impossible yet to predict.

Nor is it possible to say what form of government will ultimately be adopted. Some of the groups have passed into the administration of Australia and New Zealand. Fiji, owing to the undertaking given to the natives at the time



A CHIEF OF THE "FRIENDLY" ISLANDERS

The men of the Tonga, or Friendly Islands, are noted for their fine herculean proportions and good-humoured, handsome faces. Nearly a hundred years ago the first Wesleyan Mission was established, and since then civilization has made gigantic strides



CIVILIZATION'S STAMP IS SEEN ON HOUSE AND INHABITANT

These Tongan children have come into the world at a happy period, for nowadays all natives of the Friendly Islands are taught to read and write, and there are many public schools and colleges in Tonga where the more persevering may satisfy their thirst for knowledge. They have discarded the native skirt of pandanus leaves, but still learn to plait this leaf—growing as long as a man—into thatch, sails and mats

of annexation, has remained a Crown Colony with limited representation, but the tendency everywhere is to demand representation and, though it cannot be said that the native population is ready for representative institutions, the demand may have to be met.

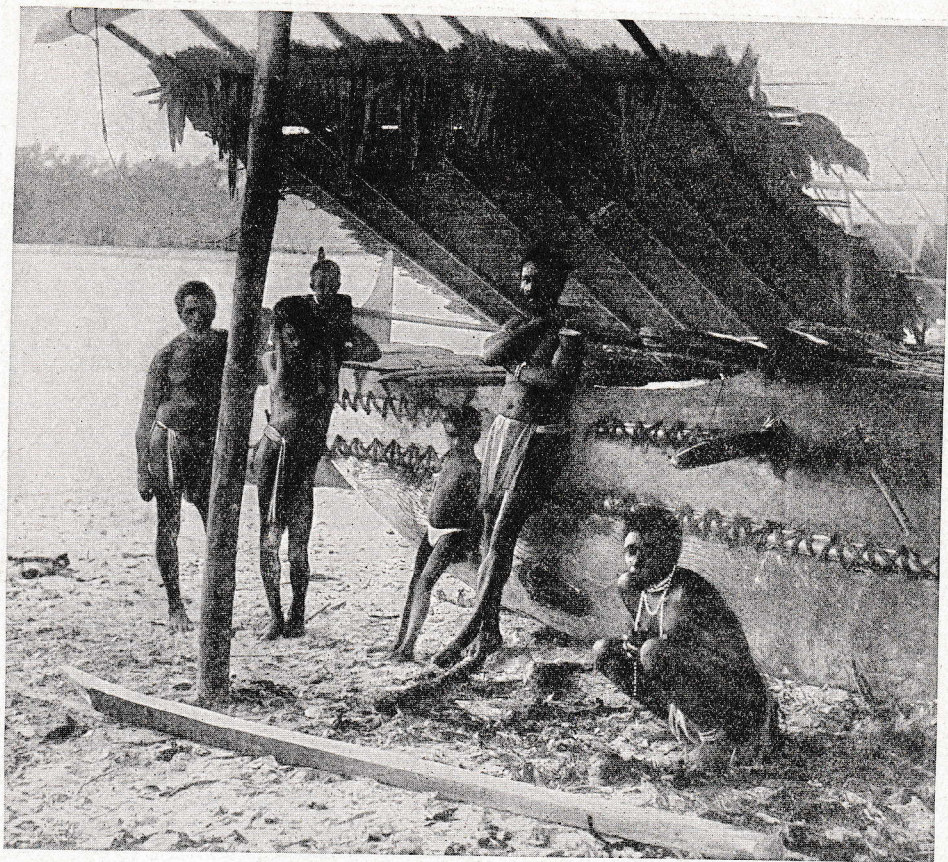
The question of administration is not very important in islands in which Europeans do not predominate, because the natives have contrived for so many generations to govern themselves with-

out much friction. Their internecine wars were a blessing in disguise, for they prevented the people from sinking into the lethargy which has beset them since the arrival of the missionaries. In former times a tribe had to fight for its existence and this brought out all the qualities of energy, courage, and self-sacrifice that were born in the native character. A tribe had to work hard on its plantation in order to lay up stores for a siege. Now it prefers a



CLUMSY AND CUMBERSOME, THE DUG-OUTS ARE HAULED TO LAND WITH CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY

Without the outrigger, which is generally used for fishing about the reefs and in the creeks, this small company of Tongan seamen would be obliged to exhaust a still greater amount of muscular energy, for only on the water is this strange craft amenable to the workings of the will of the individual, and then, sensitive as a



IN THE SHADE OF THE SHELTERING CANOE

Great care is observed by the Tongan fisherfolk in the construction of canoes, and much time and patience are spent in seasoning and dressing the planks with which they are built. Many of the larger outrigger canoes have raised deck platforms attached to them, on which quaint little houses may sometimes be seen, with sufficient accommodation not only for the crew, but also for their wives and families

Photo, Osmonde Pope

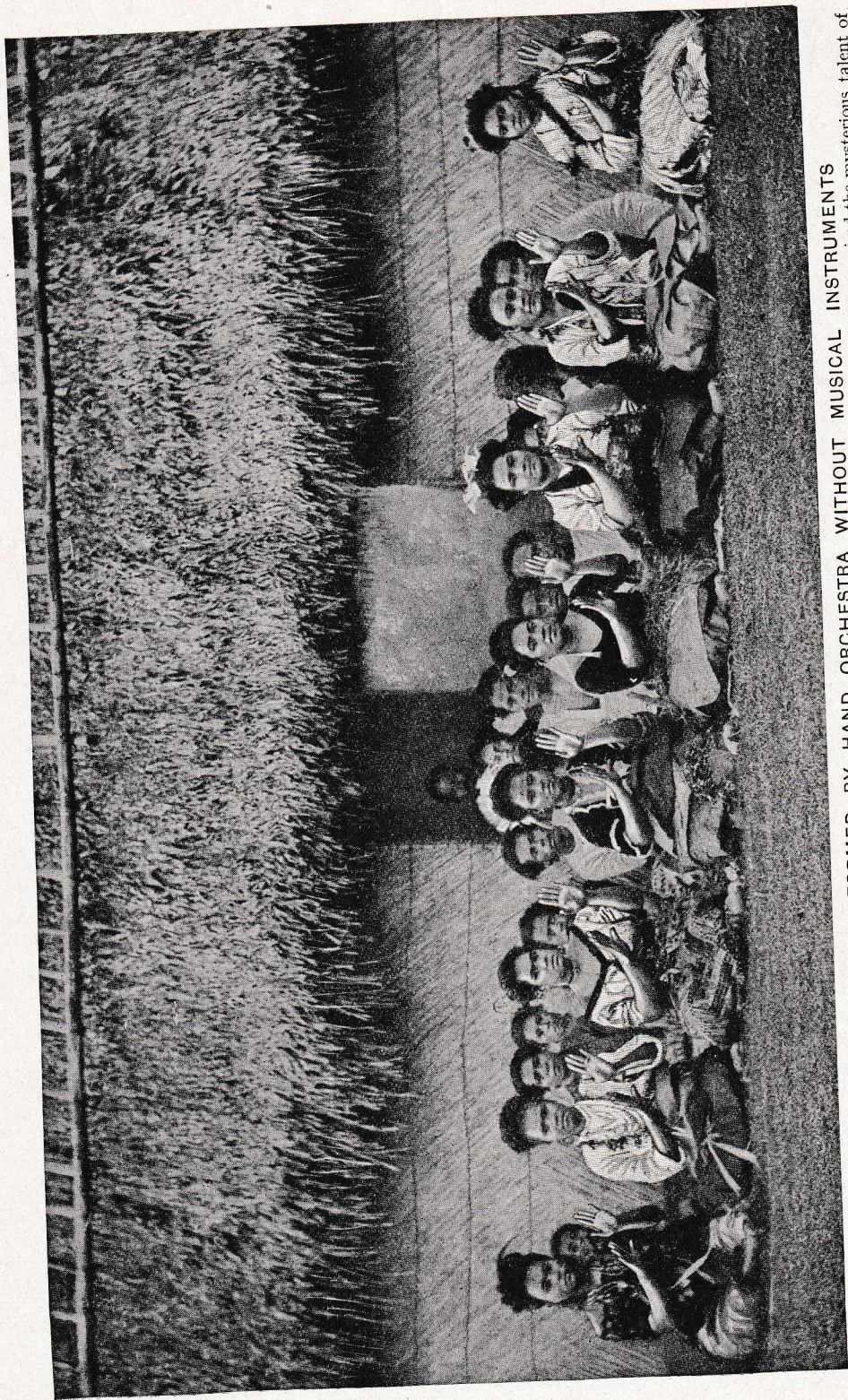
happy-go-lucky existence of travelling from island to island, sponging on the hospitality of unwilling hosts, spending the time in feasting and dancing and flirting until its welcome has been outworn.

Currency throughout the islands is British. Copper is scarcely ever used—the smallest accepted coin being a threepenny piece.

Speaking generally, there are no railways—except light railways on the sugar plantations—few roads for wheel traffic, and very few telephones. It is only within the last few years that Fiji became connected by cable and wireless with the outer world. These marvels of civilization leave the natives quite uninterested. If you ask them how the telephone they are using works, they

will say that it is the lightning. Fortunately for the well-being of the country, there has as yet been no mining except for gold in New Guinea—a gold rush would have a very demoralising influence—but the interior of the larger islands, such as the Solomons, may turn out to be rich in minerals.

Owing to the long-standing dispute between France and Great Britain on the subject of the New Hebrides—a dispute in which neither side will give way—a condominium (joint sovereignty), the most foolish and disastrous form of government ever devised by man, has been established. In spite of the tact of local officials, it is pretty certain that the disputes which are inevitable must before long put an end once and for all to this ridiculous arrangement.



NATURE'S SYMPHONIES PERFORMED BY HAND ORCHESTRA WITHOUT MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Hand-clapping as an accompaniment is rare enough, as a recognised art it is unknown; nevertheless, these girls of Tonga have acquired the mysterious talent of imitating musical sounds by the clapping of hands. And this orchestra's fame has spread abroad, and audiences in New Zealand and Australia have shown great enthusiasm at its performance.

British Empire in Australasia

II. How South Sea Islanders Came Under the Flag

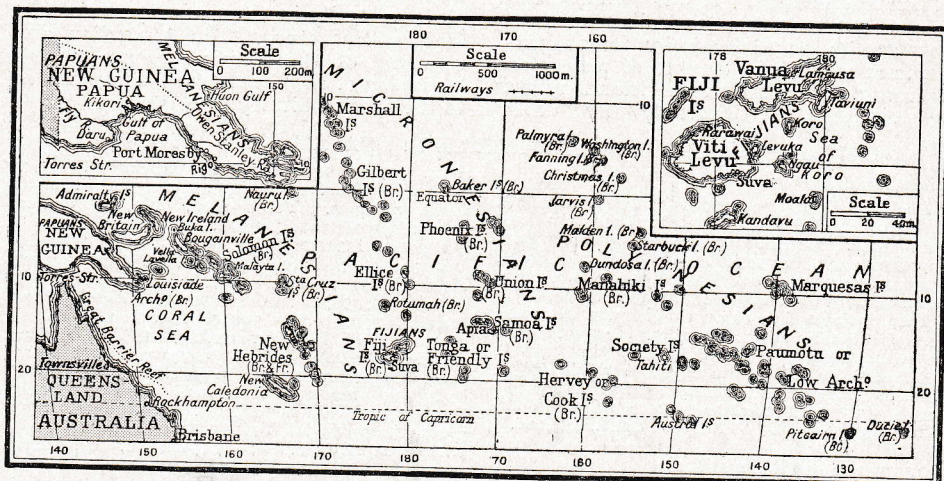
By A. D. Innes, M.A.

Author of "History of England and the British Empire"

THE expansion of the British Empire south of the Equator and in the Pacific Ocean did not, apart from the appropriation of the Falklands in the South Atlantic in 1765, begin until the last quarter of the eighteenth century. The Dutch and Portuguese almost entirely blocked the northern passage from the Indian to the Pacific Ocean, and though much of the western coast line of Australia was traced, chiefly by Dutch, but also by British sailors before the seventeenth century was ended, notably by Tasman about the middle and Dampier at the close of it, the land did not offer attractions for occupation and settlement. Portuguese, Dutch, and Spaniards had been in possession of the Spice Islands and the

two thousand, with which the Pacific is strewn, meeting his death at the hands of the Sandwich Islanders in its northern latitudes. The Pacific was by no means wholly unknown, for the world had been circumnavigated several times since Magellan had first sailed round it, and Robinson Crusoe's prototype, Alexander Selkirk, had been marooned on Juan Fernandez in 1704; but the route across the ocean had lain almost entirely north of the Equator. It was Cook who, broadly speaking, brought Polynesia and Micronesia within the ken of explorers and traders.

Before Cook had been ten years dead the Australian continent was claimed as a British possession, not a week before the arrival of French ships, which



OCEAN ISLANDS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE IN AUSTRALASIA

Philippines for a century and a half or more before the voyages of Captain Cook led the way to the British expansion.

Here we can only touch upon the realms which now form the Commonwealth of Australia and the Dominion of New Zealand; their development is dealt with elsewhere. Their beginnings, however, mark stages in the general story, and of them therefore we shall have something to say.

Between 1768 and 1779 Cook, in a series of voyages, visited New Zealand and Tasmania, which had been discovered by Tasman in 1642, explored the eastern coast-line of Australia, and touched at many of the islands, numbering more than

may have intended to appropriate the country for France. But Britain and France were then at peace; the British priority and British rights according to European custom were indisputable.

The British flag was for the first time raised officially on Australian soil by Captain Phillip, January 18th, 1788. For a long time to come, Britain, secured by her naval pre-eminence, was to have no rivals in the Antipodes, and when in 1815 the European wars, which broke out shortly after the annexation, were ended, the British position was fully established. The formation of a New Zealand Company led to quarrels between the British settlers and the vigorous Maoris who held these

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islands, which necessitated the intervention of the Imperial authority and the annexation of New Zealand in 1839 by formal treaty with the Maoris.

During the greater part of the nineteenth century the European Powers showed little inclination to occupy and make themselves responsible for the Pacific islands. No political importance but much moral interest attaches to the inhabitation of Pitcairn Island by the half-breed families of the mutineers of the *Bounty* (1790), who developed into a singularly praiseworthy little community.

Missionary societies were very active in the Pacific islands; otherwise the Europeans who settled on them were for the most part wastrels of the type who became known as beach-combers, and the trade carried on with the natives was as destructive to them, morally and physically, as the work of the missionaries was beneficial. In 1842 France assumed a protectorate in the Marquesas and in Tahiti, and in 1853 she annexed the New Caledonia group, primarily for the purpose of penal settlement. It was perhaps from this time that the Australian colonies began to be moved by desire for annexation, not so much for the sake of possession as from suspicions that the islands might be occupied detrimentally by other

Powers. In the 'eighties, however, a wave of expansionist sentiment was passing over Europe, and the anxiety of the growing Australasian states was becoming acute in consequence. The general result was a partition of spheres inaugurated by the agreement, by no means satisfactory to Australians, between Germany and England, in 1884, which gave to Germany the Bismarck group, and divided between those two Powers the half of New Guinea, or Papua, which was not already under the formal sovereignty of the Dutch. The Fiji group, which formed a kingdom on its own account, had already offered itself to the British Government, which had persisted in fighting shy of annexation. The British reluctance, however, was now overcome, and Fiji, after a brief period as a protectorate, passed definitely under the British flag in 1886. In the new Hebrides a sort of condominium was presently set up between British and French. The Sandwich Islands, otherwise known as Hawaii, went to the United States, while Tonga sought and obtained British protection; the distribution taking place generally in the closing years of the nineteenth century. The Australian annexation of the German group at the beginning of the Great War belongs rather to the specific history of Australia.

BRITISH EMPIRE IN AUSTRALASIA: FACTS AND FIGURES

The Countries

Australian Commonwealth (with Tasmania), New Zealand and Pacific Islands. Last only dealt with here. Roughly grouped as Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia, they consist of colonies, protectorates and Australian territories, formerly German, with the New Hebrides and Nauru.

Total estimated area of the islands discussed here about 208,000 square miles. Largest island is New Guinea (second largest in world). Total area 312,000 square miles, of which British portions (Papua and former Kaiser Wilhelm's Land) are about 160,540 square miles. Total estimated population of Pacific Islands, 998,000.

Government and Constitution

British High Commissioner for Western Pacific has jurisdiction over the islands, except those assigned by League of Nations to Australia.

Papua has a legislative council, partly nominated by Governor-General of Australia; New Guinea is administered under Commonwealth laws, as are Papuan Islands. Fiji has governor and legislative council partly elected. Tonga has legislative council on similar lines, but financial affairs are supervised by High Commissioner. British policy, as in other parts of Empire, is to encourage native administration.

Papua and Papuan Islands

PAPUA (BRITISH NEW GUINEA). Australian territory, consists of south-east portion of New Guinea with D'Entrecasteaux and Louisiade groups. Area, 90,540 square miles; population, estimated 251,300 (1,000 Europeans). Industries: gold and copper mining, pearl-fishing, rubber, coconut, sisal-hemp. Exports, 1920, £178,000. Trading centres: Port Moresby, Samarai. North-east portion of New Guinea, formerly Kaiser Wilhelm's Land, is also Australian territory.

Area, 70,000 square miles; population, about 120,000. Chief products: coconut, rubber, yams, bananas. Total area, 160,540 square miles; population, 371,300.

PAPUAN ISLANDS. Formerly Bismarck Archipelago, assigned to Australia. Largest island, New Britain; area, 10,000 square miles; population, 52,000. Chief town, Rabaul. New Ireland, area, 4,600 square miles; population, 28,000. New Hanover extends to 530 square miles. Admiralty Islands, group of about forty, area, 600 square miles; population, over 4,000, including Manus, Matthias, Long, Rook, Dampier, and Vulcan islands. Native industry: coconut growing. Total area of islands, about 20,000 square miles; population, estimated 190,000.

Solomon Islands Protectorate

British Protectorate includes Guadalcanar, Malaita, San Cristoval, New Georgia, Choiseul, Ysabel, and Lord Howe. Santa Cruz group were added in 1899. Bougainville, area 3,500 square miles; population, 15,000. Buka Island, area 300 square miles; population, 2,000, formerly German, assigned to Australia. Total area about 15,000 square miles; population, 150,000. Chief products: coconuts, rubber, pineapples, bananas. Exports, 1920, £212,542; imports, £181,162. Seat of government, Tulagi.

New Hebrides

Under joint British and French administration. Area, 5,100 square miles; population, estimated 66,000. Larger islands are Espiritu Santo, Mallicolo, Epi, Efate or Sandwich, Erromanga, Tanna, Futuna or Erroman, and Aneityum. Chief products: copra, maize, cotton, coffee. Exports, 1919, £150,000; imports, £120,000. Seat of government, Port Vila on Efate Island.

BRITISH EMPIRE IN AUSTRALASIA

Fiji

Crown colony of about 250 islands, 80 inhabited, including Viti Levu (area, 4,053 square miles, population, over 5,000), Vanua Levu (area 2,130 square miles, population, about 1,400), Rotuma (population, about 3,000). Total area, 7,083 square miles; population, estimated 164,000 (5,000 Europeans). Chief products: sugar, molasses, copra, rubber, bread-fruit, plantains, bananas. Exports, 1919, £1,871,062; imports, £1,042,390. Capital, Suva, where there are two government schools. The Wesleyan mission in 1919 had 863 schools, and the Roman Catholic 122.

Micronesian Islands

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS (Colony).—Gilbert or Kingsmill group, including Ocean Island (seat of government), is 166 square miles; population, about 27,000. Industries: phosphates, coconuts, and pandanus fruit. Exports, 1919, £139,183; imports, £92,351. Ellice or Lagoon group, area, 14 square miles; population, 3,100. Union or Tokelau group, area, 7 square miles; population, 900. Fanning Island, area, 15 square miles, and Washington Island, area, 6 square miles, have a population of over 400. Christmas Island, which has valuable phosphate deposits, annexed 1919. Area, about 56 square miles; population, 783. Total area, about 270 square miles; population, estimated 33,000.

NAURU OR PLEASANT ISLAND.—Small coral island; population, 1,000. Has valuable deposits of phosphates. Formerly German, now administered by Great Britain, Australia, and New Zealand.

TONGA OR FRIENDLY ISLANDS.—British protectorate since 1900, consisting of Tongatabu, Haabai, Vavau, and smaller islands. Hereditary monarchy, reigning queen Salote (1918). Area, 385 square miles; population, estimated 23,600 (376 Europeans). Products: copra, kava, green fruit, fungus, candle-nuts. Exports, 1918, £169,757; imports, £177,151. Capital, Nukualofa. Natives are Christians, 16,000 Free Church of Tonga; rest Wesleyans and Roman Catholics.

PHOENIX ISLANDS.—Group of eight small islands. Area, 16 square miles; population, less than 100. The islands are Mary, Enderbury, Phoenix, Birney, Gardner, McKean, Hull, and Sydney.

Polynesian Islands

PITCAIRN ISLAND (Colony).—Pacific island, inhabitants mostly descended from Bounty mutineers. Area, 2 square miles; population, 140. Chief products: sugar cane, sweet potatoes, yams, pineapples, bananas, arrowroot, and coffee.

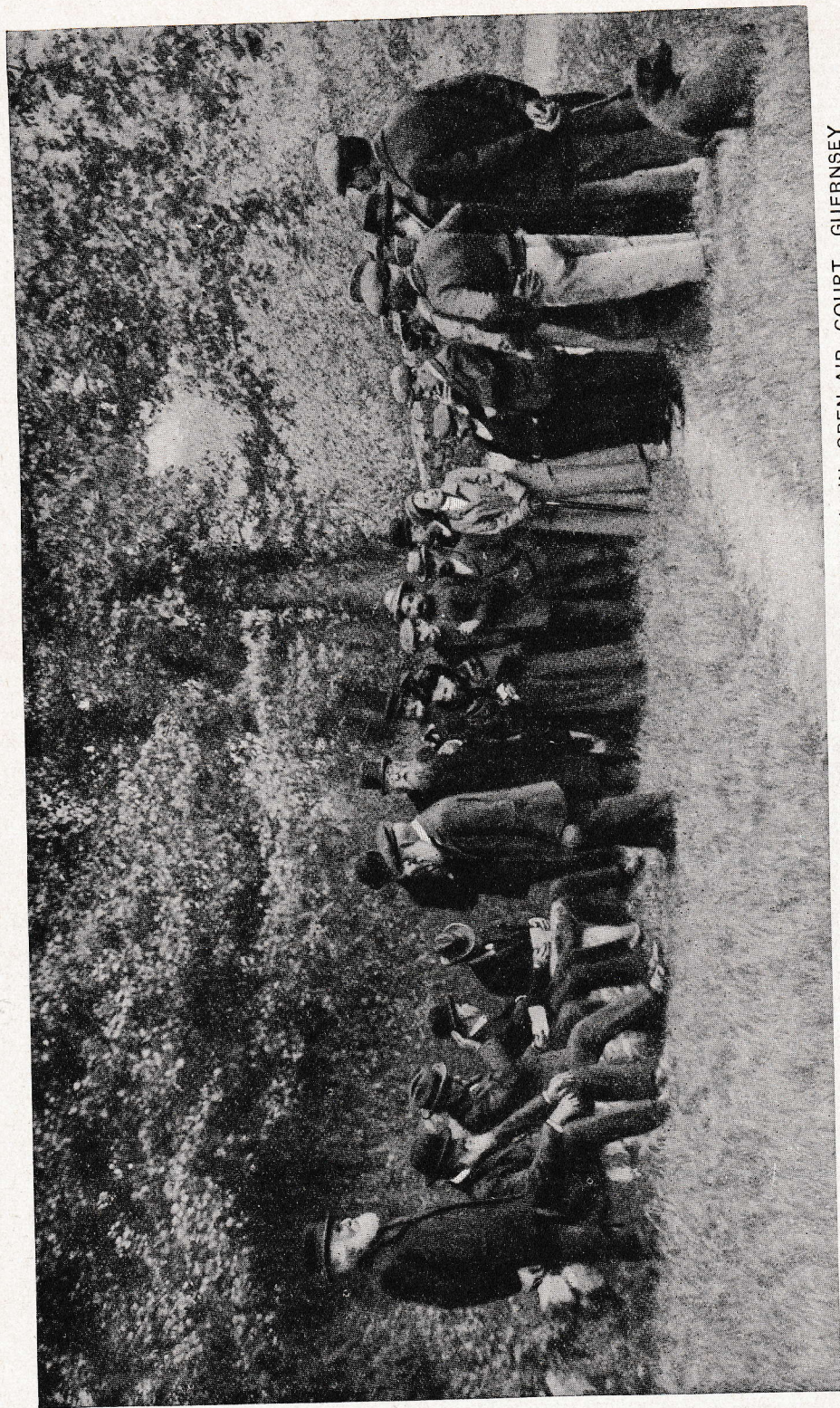
MALDEN ISLAND (Colony).—One of group of coral islands on Equator. Area, 35 square miles; population, 168. Also Jarvis Island, area, 1½ square miles; population, 168; Palmyra, 1½ square miles; Starbuck, 1 square mile.



ISLAND CHIEFS' ARTISTIC BADGE OF OFFICE

The ornaments, called tarkolas, seen hanging on the chests of these natives, are the peculiar property of chiefs on the island of Vella Lavella. The ring is cut out of clam-shell and backed by a circle of tortoiseshell, from which depend red, white, and blue beads in stripes, fringed with opossum teeth

Photo, C. W. Collinson



OLD-WORLD CUSTOM OF SWEARING IN OFFICIALS OF FIEF BEUVAL IN OPEN-AIR COURT, GUERNSEY
In the Channel Islands ample evidence has been obtained that originally all feudal courts were held in the open air, usually near some consecrated site, such as sacred stones or wells. In Guernsey some of the smaller feudal courts still assemble in many of the spots that have been used for centuries past, and this scene shows us that the court officers—seneschal, greffier, and vavasseurs—still swear with uplifted hand to be faithful vassals to their liege lord